a miscellany of fortean curiosities

THE NEWS

GHOSTS AND POLTERGEISTS, p5.

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ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

'Riply or not!' NEWS 5, p17. The story about the Clatworthy brothers, who had accidents on the same stretch of road, should have had the following sources and credits: Times, 5 Jan 74 (R Forrest). Daily Mirror, 5 Jan 74 (Steve Moore). Daily Mail, same date, (Roger Randle).

'Puma hunt in Scotland.' NEWS 6, p3. The story was from the Sunday Mirror, 23 June 74. Credit: Robert Forrest. Peter Rogerson later sent us a note from the Sunday Express a week earlier (16 June 74) which reported a myesterious animal "like a mountain lion" being seen by drivers of two cars near Beith, North Ayrshire. A lorrydriver said it crossed the road into a field in front of him at about 7am, bounding and not running. "Its body was 2½ to 3½ft from the ground, had heavy legs, fairly large paws, and a long curled up tail." One of the drivers saw it at midnight sitting in the road, and was forced to stop, his headlights full on it, for five minutes. Then, as it still refused to budge, the taxi and passengers were forced to drive round it. "In doing so my car brushed against it and it growled." We shall be carrying an article by Jerry Clark on a mystery animal, and a few more notes on UK sightings.

'Falls of Animals' NEWS 6, p15. The fall of a curious "beaver-like" animal into a street in Norrkoping in August 1708, was noted from a story in a 1969 newspaper, not 1869, as I had thought.

esp

GELLER: PUT TO THE TEST.

To the accompanyment of noisy press fanfares (1), Nature printed the long awaited paper by Drs Targ and Puthoff on their experiments with Uri Geller (2). Contrary to popular belief, spoon-bending was not on the itinery; the tests being confined to target-guessing , and Geller was only one of several percipients tested. As expected, the paper turns out to be thoroughly anticlimatic, and its loose methodology has been severely criticised.

In an editorial justification (that is a wonder in itself) Nature alludes to these technical shortcomings, but believed them outweighed by the fact that the paper comes from two initiated members of their own secret-society (the orthodox body of Science) and is backed (without reservation) by their institution, the Stanford Research Institute (SRI). And besides, they add, their readers expect them to run the odd "High-risk" paper. The more I think about that, the less sense it makes.

Most of the interesting action has been over at the New Scientist, where Dr Joseph Hanlon led a special investigation of Geller (after he backed out of their agreed testing)(3). His approach, in the long (16 page) report was that before we can speak of a "Geller Effect", we must prove, unequivocally, that the results were not, indeed could not be, achieved through 'normal' physical processes. Some will view this as harsh, but I believe it to be a practical approach, and necessary as a foundation for an 'unbiased' understanding of whatever is going on. Geller has claimed that scientists are among the easiest to fool. Dr Hanlon tells why: "Traditionally, scientists are not concerned with fraud - after all, atoms and molecules do not play tricks on the experimenters. So scientists do not expect fraud, and it is not surprising, with their orthodox background, that they approach the paranormal virtually oblivious to this possibility. Perhaps it is we, not they(presumably the Geller experimenters - Ed.), who are proposing a new philosophy of scientific research by saying that fraud must be eliminated first!"4

As Forteans, we are not, strictly speaking, out to change science or its ground-rules for accepting data, since this would be proselytizing

when we question certainty, and belief in opinions. It cannot yet be ruled out that paranormal effects vary in proportion to the degree of belief (by the principals, witnesses, etc) - and if even this relationship could be proved demonstrably, the question of the physics of the processes involved becomes doubly damnable. Nevertheless as an island of clarity, and as an admirable summing up of the Geller repertoire, we could do far worse than recommend Dr Hanlon's investigation.

We tend to be easily and readily impressed and convinced by data which makes science out to be a plodding short-sighted fool, forgetting that this too is to take sides in a propaganda war. Mind you, some scientists don't need any help in that direction. It was revealed that the spoons bent in Geller's British TV debut last year (see NEWS 2, p5.), during which Prof. John Taylor pronounced science baffled, had been left unattended in Geller's changing-room before the show (5).

The confusion over just what the SRI tests involved was generated partly by the contemporary announcement that Nature was to publish a paper that would vindicate Geller's psychokinetic powers (6). This seems a gross anticipation of the work of Profs. John Hasted and David Bohm (Birkbeck College, London) to which it referred, in which Geller amongst others were tested over 8 months. Prof. Hasted claims that these tests were more sophisticated than spoonbending - eg. Geller moved a Geiger-counter needle by producing "energy bursts of electrical origin." 'Steeth! Why aren't we hooking him into the National Grid? The papers made great play that Arthur Koestler and Arthur C. Clarke were witnesses to some tests, and were later trapped into uttering epithets, like "Impressive!"

The Hasted & Bohm paper will be slightly more exciting to me (if and when it appears)and if Nature print it,I'll be only slightly less convinced that for all its pussyfooting condescension it isn't just a hotbed of prejudices, (see their anti-amateur investigators, anti-Ley Hunting editorial,7). But It's my guess you ain't seen nut'n yet! - the in-fighting has just begun. The verification of psychokinesis (if and when) will have a far more immediate and fundamental impact on science - in physics, right where it hurts. Its debut in the journals is bound to be more traumatic, and there is a glint of knives being loosened in their sheaths. We could be entering a profoundly important stage in the development of scientific knowledge and from the turmoil will emerge new sciences and many old ones reassessed.

We had hoped to present a more detailed comment and coverage but this is all we have room for, it remaining necessary only to note references to Geller's return to active service (the bending kind) (8). Further developments will be covered next ish.

Sources: (1) News of the World; The Observer both 13 Oct 74. Some papers later printed a more cautious reassessment, eg. Daily Mail, 14 Oct 74.
(2) "Information Transmission Under Conditions of Sensory Screening." by Drs. R Targ & H Puthoff. Nature Vol 251, 18 Oct 74, pp602/607.
(3) "Uri Geller and Science." by Dr. J Hanlon. New Scientist 17 Oct 74, pp170/185.
(4) "Uri Geller and Science." by Dr. J Hanlon. New Scientist 31 Oct 74, p314. This issue also contains very interesting letters in response to above item 3.
(5) Sunday Mirror, 20 Oct 74.
(6) News of the World, 13 Oct 74. The Observer, 20 Oct 74.
(7) "Science Beyond the Fringe." Nature Vol 248, 12 April 74. See also a denunciation of same by a scientist: Correspondence, Nature Vol 249, 28 June 74; and a cool riposte by John Michell: Correspondence, Nature Vol 250, 23 Aug 74.
(8) Daily Mirror; The Sun; and others, 30 Oct 74 Credits for many above items: S Moore & P Ledger.

fires

DEATH CELLS.

A confined space - something flares up, and there is no escape. The question is: What caused the fire? At Warrington (Lancs.) Police station, on Tuesday 15 Jan, firemen in breathing gear fought their way into a cell. William D Pindard, 26, facing charges of "unlawfully imprisoning and wounding" was rushed to hospital unconscious, but was dead on arrival. The fire was in his bedding according to the Manchester Evening News, 16 Jan 74. Credit: Peter Rogerson. There was to be an Inquest but no news has reached us. We have written to the South Lancashire Coroner for more information - though it looks as if it could turn out to be a fire caused deliberately yet desperately to 'get out' one way or another.

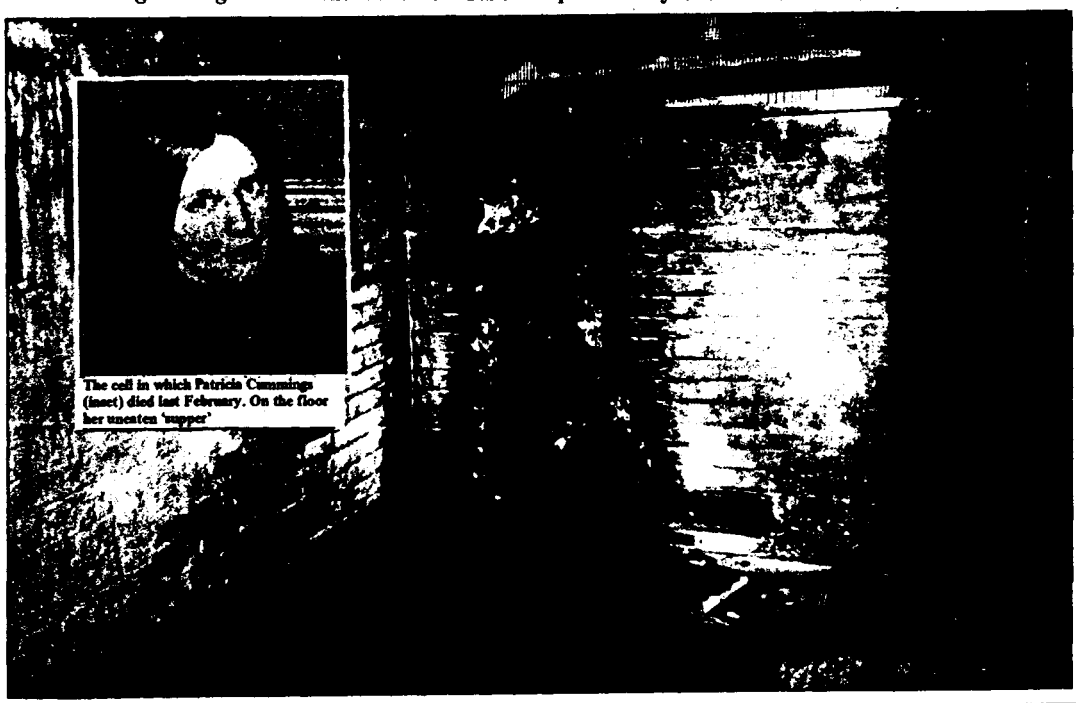
The following month there occurred a remarkably similar case. On 1st March, Patricia Cummins, 20, was rushed out of her cell in Holloway Prison, London, but died on the way to hospital. The incident received minimal attention in the papers on the 2nd March - partly because it was too early to say anything, and partly because there was a probability of wider issues being involved. We take our details mainly from an article written by Crispin Aubrey in 'Time Out', 3 May 74, which is largely a report on the Inquest, at which the facts first became public information. He kindly gave us permission to quote and use the photo. (See over)

"According to prision officers on duty that evening, Patricia was fed and sedated ((200mg of the depressant Largactyl)) at 7.25pm. It was soon after this that the woman in the cell opposite, the only inmate to give evidence, said that she heard Patricia shouting out that she was burning. "I rang the bell in my cell. When nobody answered the bell, I started shouting. Somebody answered back from the main observation unit, which is some way away. I was also banging on the door with a shoe." But it wasn't until 7.50 - 25 mins later - that a warder raised the alarm when she saw smoke coming out of the cell. None of the warders said they heard any other prisoners making noises. One officer said that when she

went into the cell, "It seemed that the light had gone out, but in fact, it was covered with thick black soot.""

Aubrey goes on to raise other questions about treatment and social implications...but for our immediate subject we note the technicalities of the fire which was confined to a polyurethane mattress. A warder was said to have given Patricia a cigarette, lighting it for her before locking her in the cell - and during a court demonstration it was shown that polyurethane could be set alight well enough by a naked flame but that a cigarette tended simply to melt the stuff, combusting it with great difficulty. This may or may not have been the actual cause of the blaze - it is likely we will never know for sure. If you look at the photo, you will note the air-vent in the back wall near the floor. The only other source of through draught was the door-gaps and spy-hole - yet the soot-marks clearly indicate poor or ineffective ventilation. The flames may have shot up with such force they ignored the weak through draught - or the vent was functionally inadequate. Other questions we have concern the apparent speed with which the blaze flared up (a factor common to most spontaneous combustions of people, though not of materials); and to what extent did her shouting mean that she herself was burning, or her mattress - again we will never know. Both Patricia Cummings and William Pindard were said to have died through inhaling fumes, and this is consonant with what we know of combusting plastics - but no mention is made in either case of whether these two unfortunates were burned in any way.

We mention these cases because we are interested in possible cases of spontaneous combustion of people - and here there is reasonable cause for doubt. But we stress that this is because of a lack of evidence one way or the other, and jump to no conclusions. Whether you conclude that a drugged girl dropped her cigarette, or a clumsy attempt was made to translate her to the Positive Absolute, is up to you. As Fort said somewhere: "I offer the data. Suit yourself." Credit: Crispin Aubrey and Steve Moore.



The cell in which Patricia Cummings (inset) died last February. On the floor her uneaten 'supper'

LONDON NEWS SERVICE

flows

Just as we have 'falls' of things, so we have 'flows'. We have a tentative hypothesis - that the teleportive force can transport liquids to points in the air (where it begins to drop) and points on the surface of things (from which it then appears to flow) - but we don't expect you to take that too seriously until it seems like the only remaining explanation. But lets see how you get on with the...

MYSTERY OF THE FLOODED PUB.
Landlord of the Peaks Hotel, Gorsey, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs, Harry Marsland, watched as water flowed from light-fittings behind his bar for seven minutes - then stopped as suddenly as it began. Plumbers were called, but left baffled, without finding any conceivable cause. The Landlord later seemed quite nonchalant about the affair: "As long as it doesn't come out of the beer pumps I'm not too worried." Daily Mirror, 15 Jan 74. Credit: R Forrest, DJ McAllister.

Or how about...

THE PLATE THAT BLEEDS.
Pescara, Italy. A plate bearing the likenesses of Pope John XXIII and President John F Kennedy is miraculously "weeping blood" claims the wife of a policeman, Pia-Luciana Sparvieri. The drops of blood began oozing from the plate after New Years Day. San Francisco Chronicle, 15 Jan 74. Credit: Loren Coleman. And from the sublime to the ridiculous...

THE NONSTOP LOO OF LEEK STREET.
Dolores Goodyear and family have been flushed out of their home in Leek St, Leeds. Ever since the family moved into their council maisonette 3 years ago, the toilet has driven them clean round the bend by repeatedly flushing itself and flooding their home. The family have been rehoused while workmen attempt to solve the riddle. Sentient malice is hinted at in hushed tones: "For no reason at all it would start flushing, and not know when to stop. It has ruined carpets, lifted tiles and made the house very damp. It's been a nightmare." All the obvious causes seem to have been explored and so the plumbers will resort to their more drastic arts...If thy throne offends thee, pluck it out. (I said drastic, not dramatic, you dope.) Daily Mirror, 1 June 74. It crosses our mind about the possibility of a connexion with poltergeistery, and end with such a suggestive note. See Fort's books for others.

BOY IN 'EVIL SPIRITS' MYSTERY.
Since 9-year-old Eugenio Rossi has been in hospital in Nuoro, Sardinia, water has started to flow through the floor of whichever ward he is moved to, and that is five to date. Patient have had to be evacuated from each ward as the mysterious water seeped through the floor, and a hospital official confirmed that this only happened in wards where the boy was being treated for a liver complaint. Plumbers were unable to find any faults at all in the hospital water system. The boy is reported to be in a private room awaiting a visit from the hospital chaplain who will conduct an exorcism. Meanwhile, nurses mop the floor several times a day. The Sun, 30 Nov 72. Credit: Mike Roberts.

ghosts & poltergeists

THE NEW HAUNTED HOUSES.

It is generally believed that only ancient mansions and castles get haunted - but we note that the number of hauntings involving new and council owned houses or flats is on the increase. It may be something to do with the particular site, though this is not always the case.

A councillor will stay the night in a house in Windsor Ave, Thornton, near Blackpool, claimed by a frightened family to be haunted by a ghostly figure that had whipped the sheets from their son's bed, proving to be the last straw in 3 years of fear for the Ross family. Daily Mail, 7 Dec 1971. Credit for both above: P Rogerson.

Six families in council flats at Tedbury Close, Southdene, Kirkby, Lancs, have asked for new homes. A Liverpool housing dept. spokesman said: "These people are terrified and we can't ignore their requests." One woman reported seeing the figure of a boy about 10 "holding an arm in the air as though clasping someone's hand." A neighbour said: "I have heard moans and child's laughter but not seen anything." Another resident said her cat began to howl, then: "I saw the figures of two small children by the fireplace, and an adult by the door. Since then we have one or other of these figures quite frequently, and heard strange noises every night." Daily Mail, 20 August 71. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

A mother wants a new council house 7 weeks after moving in to her present one in Cooper Avenue, Walthamstow, London. Her 4-year-old son has been terrified by a "white lady" who speaks to him sharply, telling him to leave the room. Nor will their dog go into the box-room used as their son's bedroom. A council official has recommended the family to "redecorate the room." Daily Mirror, 17 Nov 1969. Cr: Peter Rogerson.

Tom Appleford's council flat in Gosling Way, Lambeth, London, is the haunt of a 6ft ghost who has appeared several times, frightening Tom's children. But most of the trouble has come from 4 years of cutlery-stealing, carpets being pulled up and other mischief. The council responded to Tom's request to be moved by sending an exorcist...and now they wait to see if he has been successful. Daily Mirror, 17 Aug 74.

Doncaster council refused to rehouse six families after doing so for one recently in a spate of claimed hauntings. Elsewhere, a family fled their council flat in Nothfleet, Kent, after a visit from a headless woman with noisy accompanyment. They were given another place by the Kent authority. Daily Mail, 13 May 1969.

A Birmingham family were offered a new council house after convincing the City's housing department that their present one was haunted. Two exorcisms by local clergymen and £600 worth of medium's services had failed to end their two years of torment by a poltergeist. One medium described a hooded and toe-less monk; and another was thrown violently downstairs and had to be taken to hospital for treatment. The wife said: "It's nerve-racking living here. I have to keep my purse and pills on me. If I don't, the poltergeist hides them!" The husband added: "He loves to have fun with my underwear. He throws them downstairs, and if I don't pick them up he creates chaos in the kitchen. Once I had a bath and asked my wife to get my pants, but she couldn't find them. The next morning I was astonished to see them hanging on a branch at the top of a tree at the back of the house." No names or location is given in the report except that the house in "near the site of an old monastery." Birmingham Times, 20 Sept 74. Credit: David Driscoll.

Ghosts cont. p8/

SOME FORTEAN RAMBLINGS

Janet Bord

Occasionally, I have random thoughts which have to do with forteana and strange happenings in general. My thinking on these doesn't get too far usually, so I will entrust some of them to paper in the hope that perhaps someone else will be able to make use of them.

One thought that keeps returning to me is, I feel, rather more important than many seem to realise. That is, the question of precision in Ley-hunting. Despite the growing interest in the subject, little has been written authoritatively on ley-hunting and plotting. I can only think of Watkins' OLD STRAIGHT TRACK and John Michell's VIEW OVER ATLANTIS, plus a few articles in THE LEY HUNTER and a soon-to-be-published book by that journal's editor, Paul Screeton, called QUICKSILVER HERITAGE. Newcomers to the field read some of this material, grab their 1" OS maps and begin finding leys all over the place. But how closely have they studied the 'rules of the game'? In many cases, not at all. Eager to discover leys, they disregard some of the basic criteria with unbelievable results (eg. hundreds of leys on one 1" map). The main point is that leys are lines linking ancient sites, and each point on a ley must be an ancient site of some kind - mound, stone, circle, religious building of some antiquity, moat, etc - not just a village, or a name incorporating 'ley' in some form. Also, sites must be accurately joined - no moving the ruler slightly so that the ley works. This problem is greatly accentuated when joining sites on seperate maps. To be accurate, compass bearings must be taken.

This introduces another point - how wide is a ley? No one knows. It could be only a few inches, or it could be thousands of yards. If the former, then it would be impossible to plot on a small-scale map such as the 1". Each symbol on these maps covers a lot of ground, and the pencil line drawn to join the sites is itself many yards wide on the ground. There is also no knowing which part of the site the ley passes through. But if a ley is very wide, the accuracy of plotting is not so important. In this case, though, more sites can be aligned by allowing a wide margin, but then with less precision there is no certainty that all are leys. If leys are wide, does an ancient site stand exactly in the middle, or to one side? The art of dowsing seems to hold many possibilities for the ley-hunter. The problems I have just outlined could probably be solved by a sensitive use of the divining rod or pendulum. (1).

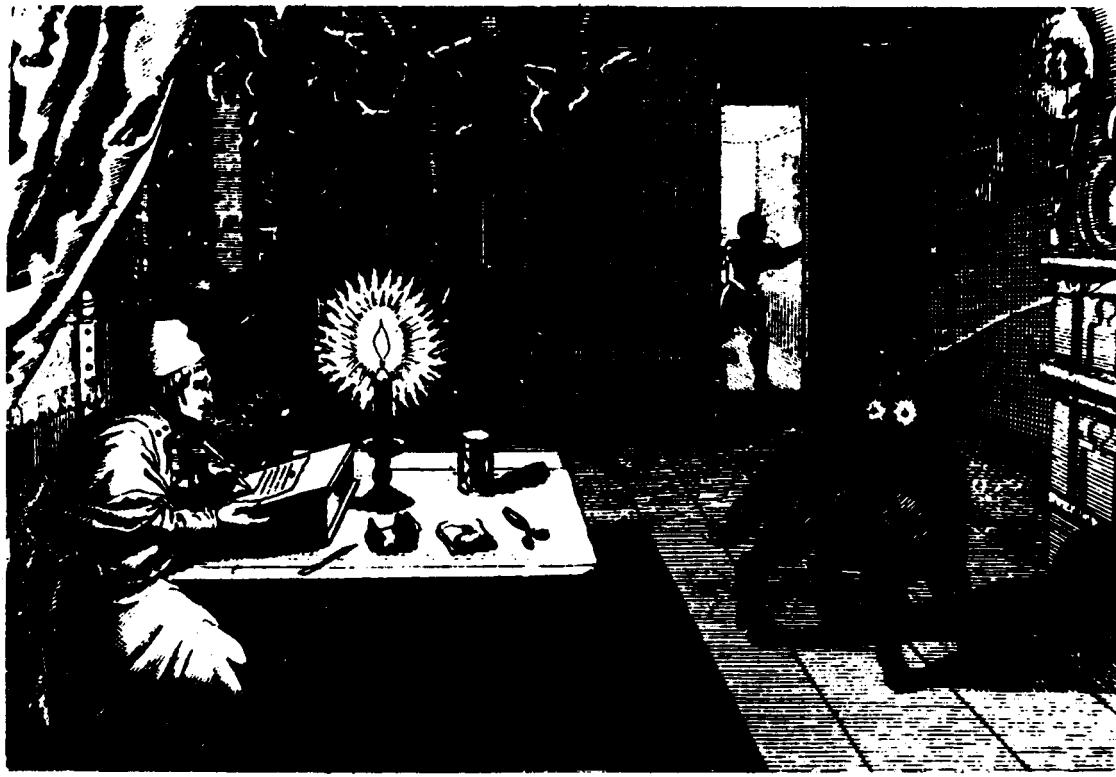
It seems that we really know very little about leys, despite intuition, theory and pure guesswork, all of which have been frequently employed. All we really know is that ancient sites seem to align. Do these lines mark areas where a current of some kind runs through the earth, all the time or at certain times? Or do they mark points where power can be drawn down from the heavens (the tall stones - with church spires copying them? - being instrumental in the drawing down?), to be stored in the stones, in the earth, or in the mounds? Were religious buildings constructed on these lines in order to benefit from the power received, as well as helping in the exchange of power? Are religious festivals long-distant remnants of ceremonials performed at the important periods of power reception or transmission?

How can we find out more about leys and their significance? It is surely not enough to plot them on a map. Perhaps, having verified as far as possible the existence of a ley, both on the map and in the field, a valuable exercise would be to investigate the activity, past and present, on the ley; local customs being particularly relevant. However, few of these are practised today, and old books on local history and folklore may well record some extinct ones. It would also be a good idea to get to know a ley, spending time on it, exploring its different moods and currents at different seasons and times of day. It helps if you are psychic - you might see something interesting. Find out if there are any records of ghosts along the ley, or of UFOs having been seen above it. It is possible there are connexions. (2).

Mentioning ghosts and UFOs leads me to another 'great British mystery' in which I take special interest, being an animal-lover. Mysterious dog-like creatures seem to have appeared throughout Britain for centuries and are still doing so, though they are now called 'the Surrey puma', even when they appear in Hampshire or Hertfordshire. (3). Folklore contains many references to these beasts - they were most often black, with large fiery eyes, and the size of a calf. Here are some examples.

The black dog is best known as Black Shuck, though that is his name only in East Anglia. (Shuck comes from scucca, Anglo-Saxon for demon.) He is particularly feared in Norfolk, where to see him is to die. In Essex however, he is friendlier, even protecting travellers on lonely roads.

The black dog is also recorded in the Channel Islands. On Guernsey near St Peter Port, he was called Tchi-co, and his howls presaged a death. On Jersey, the appearance of Le Tchan de Bouole (Dog of Bouley) warned of an approaching



Cardinal Croecentius and the Black Dog. (from Janet Bord's "GHOSTS".) Radio Times Hulton Library.

storm.

Devon was a popular haunt of the black dog, and they were often to be seen around the lanes, gates and bridges of that county. Conan Doyle's Hound of the Baskervilles was based on the legend of the Black Dog of Dartmoor; and one patrols a beat from Copplestone Cross to Downe St Mary. There is also a hamlet called Black Dog in the same neighbourhood.

In Wales he is the Dog of Darkness, the Gwyllgi. "This is a frightful apparition of a mastiff, with baleful breath and blazing red eyes, which shine like fire in the night." They were mainly confined to sea-coast parishes (as was Black Shuck) and were not pleasant to see, though they were not, in Wales, considered to be a death omen.

Other parts of the country also have their legends of the black dog, and he goes under different aliases: Mauthe Doog in the Isle of Man; the Barguest in Yorkshire; the Trash-hound in Lancashire; and the Pooka in Ireland. He is not even confined to Britain - I recently saw an old engraving depicting a Cardinal Croecentius in his study being faced by a large, fierce dog with glowing eyes, surely our old friend the black dog. ((see illustration - Ed.)). As yet I do not know the history behind this picture. And what about the Hans Anderson fairy-tale of a soldier seeking treasure underground, which is guarded by three huge dogs - one with eyes as big as saucers, one with eyes as big as a millwheel, and the third with eyes as big as the Round Tower of Copenhagen. Did Anderson base these descriptions on stories he had heard about the black dog?

My descriptions of the Black Dog have all been in the past tense, and I have suggested that the 'Surrey Puma' is the modern equivalent. However, I have on file a letter written to me recently by a lady who saw a Black Dog herself when she was a girl during the Second World War, so maybe he is still around. The details she gives agree with many in the old legends, and so the letter is worth quoting.

"The cottage where we lived is still in existence, in Bredon, Worcestershire. My encounter took place one late afternoon in summer, when I had been sent to bed, but was far from sleepy. I was sitting at the end of the big brass bedstead, playing with the ornamental knobs, and looking out of the window, when I was aware of a scratching noise, and an enormous black dog had walked from the direction of the fireplace to my left. It passed round the end of the bed, between me and the window, round the other corner of the bed, towards the door. As the dog passed between me and the window, it swung its head round to stare at me - it had very large, very red eyes, which glowed from

inside as if lit up, and as it looked at me I was quite terrified, and very much aware of the creature's breath, which was warm and strong as a gust of wind. The animal must have been very tall, as I was sitting on the old-fashioned bedstead, which was quite high and our eyes were level. Funnily enough, by the time it reached the door, it had vanished. I assure you that I was wide awake at the time, and sat for quite some long while wondering about what I had seen, and to be truthful, too scared to get into bed, under the covers and go to sleep. I clearly remember my mother and our host, sitting in the garden in the late sun, talking, and hearing the ringing of the bell on the weekly fried-fish van from Birmingham, as it went through the village! I am sure I was not dreaming, and have never forgotten the experience, remembering to the last detail how I felt, what the dog looked like, etc. "

I have no idea what these manifestations signify, if anything. They do not seem to be the same as straightforward ghosts, which in most cases have some link with a once-living person or once-existing place. Perhaps, as has been suggested elsewhere, they are a tenuous link with other planes of existence. If so, I have no wish to see further into their environment!

Finally, a mystery from Dartmoor, which I recently read about in WITCHCRAFT AND FOLKLORE OF DARTMOOR by Ruth E St Leger-Gordon (EP Publishing, 1973). Near Haytor, on Dartmoor's eastern edge, is a wood bounded by a lane. A newcomer to the district walked along the lane one evening and admired a cottage seen through the trees. When she later remarked on this to the owner of the wood, he was rather surprised because there is no cottage there. When she went back to look, no cottage was to be seen. Shortly afterwards, the cottage was seen again, this time by someone recently come to live in a new bungalow opposite the wood. She knew nothing of the earlier sighting. Later, an Ordnance Surveyor visiting the area looked down from a high vantage point and saw a cottage he had missed before. There was smoke coming from the chimneys and clothes blowing on the line. He walked down to the area but could find no trace of the cottage. He asked a lady who was out with her dog, and she too said that she had seen the cottage, but had been unable to locate it again. The author of the Dartmoor book, having all the details, ascertained that in all cases the same cottage was seen on the same spot. A careful search of the site produced no sign of old foundations, so the witnesses were probably not seeing the ghost of a former cottage.

Were they looking through into another existence, similar to ours but normally seperate from it? This suggestion causes me to recall certain parts of Robert A Monroe's book JOURNEYS OUT OF THE BODY where he recounts experiences of another existence, very similar to ours, during astral projection. It may seem extremely far-fetched to suggest that the space we live in is also occupied by others, living in similar surroundings to ours but not normally visible to us. But the older I grow, the less I am certain of - especially relating to the wider meaning of life.

=+= =+= =+= =+= =+=

NOTES -- by the Editor.

1) For a good introduction to the use of dowsing, particularly in connection with the investigation of sites of antiquity, and the energy fields of ghosts, see TC Lethbridge's GHOST AND DIVINING ROD (Routledge & Kegan Paul), which also includes much interesting material on the haunts of the Scottish lake-monsters. But the fundamental research work into the application of dowsing theory and practice is continuing: see for example THE LEY HUNTER 34, Aug 72 for the results of several experiments in 'Ley Dowsing' by RG Wood, which is in turn an extension of Underwood's theories of geodetic-lines and emanations from blind-springs, as set out in his PATTERNS OF THE PAST.

2) This is the area of prime interest for Forteans in the Ley phenomena. Evidence is slowly building up that there is indeed a correspondence between types of Fortean phenomena and proximity to Leys. We hope to be presenting an exploratory article on this subject in future. THE NEWS feels that this connexion deserves our continuing interest.

3) By one of those 'coincidences' that seem to be happening more frequently within the sphere of my interests, my own summary of 'Surrey Puma' cases between 1962 and 1973 was published in the current INFO Journal (No 13). This also contains some speculation on the phenomenon in relation to UFOs, Astral Projection, ghosts and Leys. More cases have cropped up in the meantime (see last issue for reports of 'puma' in Scotland) and we shall be publishing them in due course.

GHOSTS / cont:

The Owen family have now got a new council flat after waiting two months. Their former residence, a 20-year-old terraced house in Godre'r Parc, Tregarth, near Bangor, north Wales, was said by them to be haunted by a ghost 6ft tall in modern clothes, who frightened their six children. An exorcism by Rev. Aelwyn Roberts of Llandegai, failed to end the trouble. Sunday Mirror 8 Sept 74.

A COUPLE OF OUTDOOR TYPES.

In August 1965, the Worcestershire village of Pershore was gripped by a week of ghost-hunting. We have no date other than that, but our source is The People. One Sunday, 3 little boys moonlight fishing were startled by something and ran in panic all the way home, where they said they had seen a ghost. Mr Paddy Weaver, a postman, said: "I was with two friends down by the river when I saw something. At the time we saw the thing, some small boys went dashing across the field. I don't know exactly what I saw except that it was a white square thing. On the Monday night about 20

people gathered by the river claimed they saw a "gleaming 6ft spectre float 3ft above the ground across the field to a cemetery." On Tuesday 50 fearless hunters said that when the spectre appeared they formed a ring around, then it vanished. On Wednesday the numbers were up to 100. Two women with umbrellas chased something that quite wisely vanished. (It wasn't me, I swear it.) On Thursday, 150 people rushed across the field to some trees but there was nothing there. (Good Lord!) On Friday it was 200 waiting till midnight for something to happen, and it didn't. And that seems to be the end of that.

Two workers at the paper-mill at Greenfield, near Oldham, claimed they were startled by a ghost on a landing jetty in the mill waters. One said he had never been so frightened in his life. "The ghost was more than 6ft tall, with hands at his side, about 75ft from us - but we could see it clearly. It was all white. We stood staring at this ghost for three minutes just after dawn had broken. Then I shouted 'Oh!' and it vanished into thin air." The other man said: "It made me go cold. We sneaked closer but it vanished when Les shouted at it." A young electrician was drowned at the spot many years previously. Manchester Evening News, 17 July 1967. Credit for both above to Peter Rogerson.

MORE GHOSTS

A successful exorcism at 54 Chester Rd, Buckley, where the Massey family and their five children were pestered by incidents over the 11 months previously. Several ghosts were seen upstairs, including an old man, and a man with a horse, and then a group of seven ghosts in quick succession at the foot of the stairs. Manchester Evening News, 26 Nov 1968. Credit: P Rogerson.

** ** **

82-year-old Sarah Mayor reports a noisy ghost in her 100-year-old house in Lancaster Road, Hindley, near Wigan. After midnight it knocks on all the doors and ends with a loud tatoo on the front door at 2.30am punctually. Evening News & Chronicle, 28 Oct 1969. Cr: P Rogerson.

** ** **

John Stonehouse, (then) Minister of Post & Telecomunnications, denies moving out of his London flat in Kennington one month after moving in, because of ghosts. His son has said he "heard things", and two previous tennants testify to seeing "grey figures" and poltergeist activity. Sunday Express, 9 Nov 1969. Cr: P Rogerson.

** ** **

Shimmering ghosts in old army uniforms of black buttoned tunics and cylindrical hats appeared in Imphal Barracks, Yorkshire, used by teenage privates. They were seen by at least three boys and one had to be taken to the sickbay to sleep after a duty officer was called. Daily Mail, 12 Nov 1969. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

** ** **

Ghostly cavaliers and dark shapes have frightened staff working late at the Hippo Club, Nottingham. Some have felt "prickly hands" touch them. Daily Mail, 5 July 1971.

** ** **

Caretaker and cleaners at Burnley Wood Primary School, Burnley, have been terrified by sounds of a baby moaning, and a ghostly kid who skips and sings down the corridors. Daily Mail, 10 Sept 1971. Cr above two: P Rogerson.

** ** **

The ghost of a monk has been seen in the Classic Cinema, Lenton Abbey, Nottingham. Daily Mail, 27 April 1973. Cr: Steve Moore.

** ** **

Cleaners at Warwick Castle refuse to go into the tower where Faulke Greville, the first Lord Brooke, was murdered by his servant in 1628, and took 2 weeks to die. Mrs Joan Ryan was polishing a floor when she heard loud scratching noises appear to come from a portrait of Greville. Birmingham Evening Mail, 20 June 73.

** ** **

The dairies at Wellington, Somerset, have become such a place of mysterious groanings and footsteps at night, that the milkmen are being allowed later deliveries. Daily Mail, 9 Feb 74. Credit: Steve Moore.

** ** **

Hotel developers wanted to pull down the 22 bedroomed Audrey Court Hotel, Lower Warberry Road, Torquay, Devon, but the Deptartment of the Environment have slapped a preservation order on it. Legend says that Edward VII bought the 114-year-old hotel for his assignations with Lilly Langtrey in 1901, whose ghost now haunts the corridors knocking on doors. Sunday Mirror, 21 July 1974.

** ** **

The shadowy ghost of a longhaired red-coated man has taken up new lodgings in the pub-disco in Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, after the 103-year-old theatre next door shut down and later converted to X films. It is reported to have walked through a barman locking up late at night. News of the World, 21 July 74.

** ** **

The Rector of Haworth has prevented the former Curate exorcising a ghost, reputed to be Emily Brontë, haunting the Toby Jug Restaurant in Haworth, Yorks, every year on 19 December, the anniversary of Emily's death. Hmmm...didn't Dennis Weatley write a novel called "The Haunting of Toby Jug"? Daily Telegraph, 2 Oct 74. Credit: David Driscoll.

** ** **

Because of the generosity of a number of readers who have turned over their collections of Forteana to THE NEWS, we have a considerable backlog of material on ghosts (to name but one category). Many of these data go back to the middle 60s, and will appear in subsequent NEWSs.

SOME WEIRDOS.

Some of our data is not new, but we print it because we don't think it has been recorded else where. Frinstance, this letter to the Manchester Evening News of 24 Oct 1968:

"I was interested to read in Saturday's issue the report headlined 'The Ghost Music Goes Round and Around..' for I too heard the same ghost more than two years ago.

(The report stated that the thin piping tunes that float down from the floor above come from - an empty office! And the two girls who work in Peter St. wonder if they have located the phantom flautist of the old Gaiety Theatre which used to stand on the site.)

I used to work in a shop thereand I and the Manageress frequently heard what we thought was an employee of the office above practicing on a clarinet or flute. We too heard the player practice only scales or snatches of tunes. In fact we used to joke that for all his practicing he didn't seem to be getting any better. He always played after 5pm when the offices closed. Thats why we presumed he was staying behind after work. We were generally the last to leave the building at 6pm. During the whole of this period we had no idea that there was no-one in the office! I do remember the plaque in the main entrance commemorating the old Gaiety Theatre, so I'd like to confirm the statements of the two girls mentioned in the report as being perfectly true." (Miss JA Jackson, Beverley Ave, Davyhulme, Urmston.)

Credit: Peter Rogerson.

A hospital chaplain has been asked to exorcise a ward where ghostly footsteps are heard at night. Two senior nurses and a houseman of Guy's Hospital, London, told of an incident involving a woman who was dying in Addison Ward, about midnight. Along the corridor came the sound of heavy footsteps. "Students playing a prank," thought the houseman. But the sounds came through the door, down the centre of the ward - and stopped near the bed of the dying woman. Patient already awake heard the steps, and so did others who were awakened by the noise - but no-one saw anything. After a few minutes, the steps resumed as though with heavy and squeaking boots, going back the way they came. And in those minutes in between, the woman patient died. Daily Mail, 16 Jan 1969. Cr: P Rogerson.

Steve Moore sent us a note from the Daily Mirror 8 Aug 74, announcing a radio confrontation on the subject of ESP. One of the participants was Arthur Ellison, a professor of electrical engineering at City University, London, and member of the SPR, who recounts his introduction into the world of paranormal phenomena when he woke one night to see a hole in his ceiling. And through that hole there peered a face, looking at him intently. This reminded us of a note sent by Peter Rogerson, earlier, from the Daily Mail, 18 Jan 1968, in which a woman university lecturer told of her mother's fear of "strange noises in the night" at her terrace cottage in Lydgate, Lepton, near Huddersfield. She went to stay with her mother over Christmas "to find out if she was suffering from some delusion" , and slept during the day to stay awake at night. At 3am one night her mother called her and pointed to the ceiling. "I saw a small circular light through a break in the ceiling, but I could not find any explanation for it. When I switched on the bedroom light, the other light stayed on for a few seconds then went out." Then she called the police to check the security and they confirmed that nobody had walked in the loft. A few minutes after they left the noises were heard again - running out of the house, the lecturer saw "a man through some curtains" though it is not clear whether this was in her mother's house. On the 14th Jan her mother was found dead in the gas-filled kitchen. The inquest was adjourned for further evidence.

From Hongkong came news of a giant exorcism involving 70 Buddhist priests to clear a new government building of "troublesome ghosts". It was built on the site of a Japanese public execution ground. One woman employee said: "The ghosts make all kinds of noises, screaming and giggling especially when a pretty girl is around. I personally believe they are sex-starved." The ritual was ordered by Traffic Commissioner Brian Wilson after complaints from his staff. San Francisco Chronicle, 9 Feb 74. Cr: L Coleman.

Cleaners working on jumbo jets at London's Heathrow Airport have refused to work alone at night in case they are attacked by a spook that holds them down by the throat and arms. Lal Parmar, foreman of a group of industrial cleaners, admitted to being very frightened when he met it in the rest room on the jet piers. "It all started when we opened the doors one day and there was a strange smell. It went away but came back later. I sat in a chair for a brief rest and was horrified when I could not get up again. My eyes shut and I could not open them. It was as if someone was holding me down by my shoulders for about four or five minutes." The British Airport Authority has launched an inquiry. Express & Star, 23 Oct 74. Credit: Frank Adey.

"When my sons were small and sleeping in our back room, they were woken up by a dwarf-like figure with a huge face. He pulled their hair, ran around and made a getaway through the window. He never woke them both up. It was one boy one night and the other the next. They were never hurt and said the dwarf wanted to play and got annoyed if they wanted to sleep." (Mrs MT; Swansea.) Letter to The Sun, 7 March 72. Credit: Nigel Watson. Some day, we fear, we shall have to account with the phenomena of kiddies' 'invisible' friends!!?!!

Lastly, a tale of a helpful ghost. Or so we are told by Les Gibbons, a boilerman at the Royal Marine Barracks, Lympstone, Devon, who said:"I went to the boilerhouse about 4am. It was a clear windless night. By the far wall, about 60ft away, was a pile of wood shavings. Suddenly the pile rose about 2ft in the air and came towards me, dropping at my feet. Simultaneously two wires

connected to the boiler sprang out of their sockets. I reconnected the wires and looked for an explanation but found nothing. The astonishing thing is that the boiler has worked perfectly ever since." Daily Mirror, 17 Jan 1968 . Credit: Peter Rogerson.

VISIONS.

Where in this continuous universe do ghosts merge away into visions, sacred or profane? Can we think that a vision contains some comunicable spiritual symbolism, as against a ghost which seems to be some mindless and automatic reflex between man and the universe? We begin this little section with the tale of Mowbreck Hall, Wesham, near Kirkham, rebuilt in 1730 on the foundations of the old hall built in the 1100s. By any standards, the events were 'normal' haunted house stuff, but they got troublesome enough for the proprietor, Ellis Kit, to call in an exorcist. What interests us is the reference to an incident in 1584, when the hall had a private chapel for Roman Catholics, who were forbidden to worship in Protestant churches. The son of the hall-owner of the time was betrayed and executed for Jesuit sympathies. His father was confronted at midnight by the spectre of the son's gory head above the altar, which said in Latin from bloodstained lips: "Your sadness will turn to joy." The father fainted and died shortly after. Manchester Evening News, 10 Jan 1968.

Two young children were in hospital being treated for shock. Their mother Martha McLeish was still shaking as she recounted the incident that decided her on moving from her council flat at 35 Northern Drive, Collyhurst, Manchester, and that caused her to take the children to Booth Hall Hospital at 2 in the morning. Two and a half years earlier, Mrs Mabel Potter, a widow, was murdered in the flat; a man was accused and then cleared, leaving the killer still unfound. Mrs McLeish says she has seen the ghost of Mrs Potter twice during 1972, each time being woken from sleep by a sensed presence. "Last Sunday (12 Nov) night when I was about to put Rhoda and Jackie to bed they came running to me, hysterical, screaming at the top of their voices: 'There's something in our room.' I could not get much out of them. My little girl said: 'She was on the cross.' Every night since they have refused to go into their bedroom and I have stayed up all night with them on the living-room settee." That was reported in the Daily Mail, 17 Nov 1972, and the same paper the next day added some detail of the elder girl's story: Rhoda, 5, said: "She had long hair like mummy's. She was on a cross. There was a big band playing. I was very frightened. The bogey woman said to me, 'You must wait for me in this room.' I said, 'Get out of the room.' She touched me and I ran for my mummy. I don't want to go back there again." Her 3-year-old brother added: "She touched my mouth and I was very frightened. I don't want to see her again." Altogether a curious case. Both above items are to Peter Rogerson's credit.

The villagers at Cafala Diana say that the Madonna has appeared to at least 30 people in the tiny village in Palermo area of Sicily, and every afternoon for a week has appeared at the window of a ruined castle. The local priest has refused to go with the villagers to see the 'apparitions'. Daily Mirror, 2 June 1967. Credit: A Smith.

Church authorities are trying to calm excited villagers in Castelnau de Guers (pop. 800.) tucked away 20 miles inland from the Mediterranean coast in the apparently not-so-God-forsaken corner of southern France. The bishop of Montpellier has urged all Catholics in the region to act with "reserve and great prudence." The stir started when the local Abbé Caucanas and about 30 of his parishioners swear they saw the face of Christ appear clearly on a napkin covering the ciborium (a vessel for the eucharistic bread) on the altar of the Saint-Sulpice Church, and last for about 15 minutes. Father François Caucanas, greatly embarrassed by the uproar, said "I had just knelt before the altar. As I rose I saw, on the fine white napkin covering the ciborium, the face of Our Lord. His right eye was closed, the left open. The nose was bruised and swollen and the face bore an expression of pain." He shouted to the congregation and they all surged forward. Some say they saw tears on the cheeks, and another, a crown of thorns. Then the image disappeared when the priest lifted the napkin to take up the ciborium at the moment of Holy Communion. In all this cosmic seriousness, we warm to Gerard Lorquet, the sacristan, who attributes the vision to the fact that Caucanas still says the Mass in Latin. "This is a sign," he says, "A warning to others and an act of God's gratitude to the abbé for not allowing electric guitars in the church." Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Journal, 20 April 74. Credit: Mark Hall. Over a month later the effects of that evening Mass on the Good Friday were still being felt. The small village is reported to be wishing they had kept their mouths shut. A huge invasion of the curious has caused chaos in their quiet lives; stones are hacked from the church walls; the font is constantly emptied of water, and pews are being chipped. "Soon they will be coming to cut up my trousers for relics," said Caucanas, whose curt remarks are in sharp contrast to his exuberent attitude just after the event. Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 29 May 74. Credit: Nigel Watson. Ah yes! They have a nice line in nice lines down in good ole Castelnau de Guers.

MARK HALL'S

FORTEAN USE

THE FABULOUS "BERMUDA TRIANGLE"

The foremost fable of our time is certainly the ill-defined "Bermuda Triangle." This has been alleged by a string of writers to be a zone in the northwestern Atlantic where ships and planes disappear without trace. In fact, no area of recognisable shape can be found by plotting the alleged vanishings. They simply string out along the Florida coast and onward along the islands from there to South America. They may only be the toll to be paid in disaster in an area of heavy air and sea traffic. Still, no less than four new books on this subject have appeared this year in the USA (1) and a fifth, simply about disappearances at sea (2), has also been published. For those persons who keep up with these claims of oddities and disappearances, here are the latest relevant items.

**A 51ft cabin cruiser was found on 24 Dec 73, north of Nassau, Bahamas, with 8 persons missing and presumed lost at sea. (3)
**A light plane that disappeared 21 July 1963 was found in March 1974 off New Port Richey, Florida, in the Gulf of Mexico. (4)
**The 54ft yacht 'Saba Bank' left Nassau 10 Mar 74 with four men aboard and vanished. (5)
**Yacht 'Surefire', reported missing during a race in the Gulf, docked at Coral harbor, Florida on 6 May 74. The captain refused to say where he had been. (6)
**'Niagara', a 200 ton freighter, disappeared 24 May 74 in the Caribbean. In July, fishermen found 12 of her crewmen dead on a raft off Nicaragua. (7)
**US Navy divers searched a wreck off Wachapregue, Virginia, in August 74, with hopes that it was the 'Cyclops' that disappeared in March 1918. The wreck was found to contain a cargo of scrap-iron - the 'Cyclops' carried manganese ore. (9)
**The US Coast Guard disclosed at hearings in Washington that drug smugglers are hijacking yachts and other boats at sea. Vessels missing along both seacoasts and in the Gulf and Caribbean areas are included. Only a few cases can be conclusively documented, but 34 boats are specifically suspected of this fate. The 202 people carried by those boats are still missing and presumed murdered. (10)

Sources: (1) The Devil's Triangle by Richard Winer; The Bermuda Triangle by Charles Berlitz; Devil's Triangle by David Graham; No Earthly Explanation by John W Spencer. (2) Posted Missing by Alan Villiers. (3) Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Sentinel, 25 & 26 Dec 73. (4) St Louis (Missouri) Post-Dispatch, 24 March 74. (5) Miami (Florida) Herald, 26 April 74. (6) Miami Herald, 7 May 74. (7) Washington (DC) Star-News 22 July 74. (8) Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Journal, 26 July 74. (9) Minneapolis (Minn) Star, 27 July 74; Washington Star-News, 3 Aug 74. (10) Des Moines (Iowa) Register, 28 Aug 74; Tampa (Florida) Tribune, 29 Aug 74.

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AIRCRAFT IN ICE.

Reminiscent of the ships seen on ice in 1851 (discussed by Rupert T Gould in Oddities), a Finnish vessel bound for London reported sighting a twin-engined aircraft in an iceberg in Notre Dame Bay, Newfoundland. This report was made on 6 July to a lighthouse keeper by the officers of the bulk carrier 'Burney'. Canadian armed forces personnel followed up this lone report of a Dakota-type airplane but said their records did not show any plane to account for it. They did not find such an iceberg, but did observe a rapid thaw in progress. At mid-July the sought-after berg was thought to have melted away. Windsor (Ontario) Star, 16 July 74; and Chicago Tribune, 22 July 74.

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CHAMBER BENEATH A MEXICAN PYRAMID.

Numerous archeological discoveries have been in the news. Now that North American tools and such are permitted to date prior to 10,000 BC, such finds are frequently made; the latest being in Pennsylvania and Baja California. But a surprising announcement comes from the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History about a find made two years ago. A tunnel was found 16ft underground beneath the 170ft-high Pyramid of the Sun, 30 miles north of Mexico City. This tunnel is a cave with walls smoothed with dark clay, and runs east to west for 328 feet directly to a point beneath the centre of the pyramid. There three pathways open up in the shape of a three-leaf clover. The discovery was made when rain uncovered the opening. Bones and pottery (dated 300AD) have been found in the cave. Mexican archeologists have long maintained their pyramids were only temples, not tombs, and are calling this cave a "ritual chamber." Houston (Texas) Chronicle, 25 July 74; St Louis (Mo) Post-Dispatch, 8 Sept 74.

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THE MINNESOTA RUNESTONE.

A British film director, Brian Branston, has made a BBC documentary that labels as a hoax Minnesota's foremost Viking artifact, the Kensington Runestone. The story of this stone is too lengthy to tell here, but it bears a runic inscription with a date of 1362. It came to light in 1898, and all the original principals in the early controversy are now dead. Mr Bran-

ston's documentary cannot be broadcast in the USA, so we here will not see it - but from what we read of him, he is a man who cannot tackle a mystery without finding a solution, perhaps even if it is the wrong one. Sadly there are no longer any local scholars who argue the authenticity of the stone, either for or against. And so it is ripe for exploitation by any travelling showman, and the solutions to this 'hoax' have shifted endlessly without solid foundation. Each new solution claims to find the culprits, but the stone remains, outlasting its detractors and awaiting our understanding. St Paul (Minn.) Dispatch, 6 Aug 74; Lake Region Press (Alexandria, Minn.), 9 Aug 74.

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GIANT STEPS.

Coal miners in Utah are constantly threatened by dinosaurs stepping on them. The danger comes from fossilized footprints of giant reptiles that once walked atop swamps now turned to coal. As the miners tunnel through the coal, 3-toed tracks up to 4½ft long drop from the ceilings.

The largest of these tracks are the only known evidence of a two-legged dinosaur that was twice as large as Tyrannosaurus Rex. Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Journal, 1 Aug 74.

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ARKANSAS STINKS.

Two years ago the people of Crooked Creek, in Boone County, Arkansas, noticed the fumes for the first time. The smell was so bad they fought for breath. Fumes seemingly from nowhere in subsequent months caused rashes on faces, necks and arms, swelling of glands, dizziness, watery eyes and other problems. Persons for a mile around the small community in the Ozark Mountains have been affected. No businesses or other possible sources for the noxious fumes have been found. The latest complaints in late August brought in state and federal agencies that are even now investigating. Miami (Florida) Herald, 2 Sept 74.

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SWARMS.

Small brown moths of unknown type and origin swarmed in Cleveland, Ohio, and its suburbs on the morning of 15 July. Cleveland Plain Dealer, 16 July 74. — Rats "suddenly appeared" in great numbers in northeastern Hamilton, Ontario, say residents. Windsor (Ontario) Star, 26 July 74 — Field mice swarmed in the San Joaquin Valley, California, in one of the worst outbreaks in 20 years. San Francisco Examiner, 2 Aug 74. — A 3 month plague of mice on the southeast coast of Maui Island in Hawaii was stopped by providing poisoned oats for the rodents. Atlanta Journal & Constitution, 22 Sept 74.

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CULTS, CATTLE, COPTERS, AND CURIOUS LIGHTS.

We dislike taking space to discuss the clandestine activities of criminals, but for the past year the activities of cattle rustlers using helicopters have become bound up with stories of mysterious lights, UFOs, strange animals, and cases of livestock mutilation. The rustling has been going on in several Midwestern states. Even the newsmagazine NEWSWEEK got into the act, reporting this story with such cryptic lines as: "A few residents reported sighting strange creatures resembling bears and gorillas, and at least one farmer claims that a shiny UFO landed in a field where a slaughtered animal was later found." (1) We hope to sort out some of the mystery for you now.

Helicopters are not new to cattle rustling. They were used five years ago in Texas (2) and are now linked with recent rustling. Press notoriety for these helicoptering bandits began in April 1973. Through the next 18 months, the areas of rustling and helicopter sightings shifted rapidly through the states of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa again, South Dakota, and Minnesota. While all these incidents need not be the work of just one group of men, the timing of them indicates they could be. So far two aircraft have definitely been determined to be in use. Two slow, low-flying aircraft were once seen on radar from Kansas City, Mo., (3) and in a bizarre daylight incident (related below) one helicopter and a small plane were seen. Tedious detail and complete references will be avoided in the following brief discussion.

Stories of mutilated cattle and horses began in Kansas in October of 1973. Most often cattle were found with sex organs and ears removed, and the carcasses were remarkably bloodless. Such finds continued later in Nebraska and South Dakota into October of 1974.

Diseases and predatory animals may have killed some of the cattle, but there was no doubt that

many had been deliberately slain. Rustling did continue, but attentions became focussed on the more frequent finds of mutilations and on the lights seen at night where carcases would later be found. Farmers began patrolling at night, but these incidents were spread out over many large counties.

The most bizarre occurrence had to be the experience of a 20-year-old farmer at his farm near Honey Creek, Iowa, north of Council Bluffs, on 15 July 74. While cultivating corn with his tractor, he saw two aircraft, a white helicopter and a black twin-engined plane, come swooping down over him. A man leaned from the helicopter and began firing with a handgun - the shots striking the ground near the tractor. The farmer took cover and watched the aircraft buzz the farm, then fly off. They bore no markings, and investigating authorities could not learn anything about the craft. (4) (For what it may mean: the body of a Council Bluffs man was found near North Topeka, Kansas, on 12 Sept 74. He had bled to death from six puncture wounds. "The cause of the wounds has not been determined, officials said.") (5).

Almost all of the lights reported could well have been produced by small aircraft. The shiny UFO mentioned by NEWSWEEK appeared only in a pseudo-factual article in a cheap tabloid. Shiny UFOs have been reported recently, but at some distance from the sites of animal mutilation. A farmer near Langenburg, Saskatchewan, reported seeing five "stainless steel objects" hovering for 15 minutes over his property in early September. They left depressions in grass that measured 11 feet across. (6). A few days later, on 11 Sept. five children in Chisago City, Minnesota, say they watched a descending saucer-shaped object that hovered and then descended out of sight. They described bulges on top and bottom with white and green lights. (7).

To add to all these wonders, a 'wolf girl' was declared to be running through the brush and woods near Delphos, Kansas. In July 1974, a child about 10 or 12 years old, dressed in red tattered clothing, was sought unsuccessfully by sheriffs after several reports. (8). I suggest this child may have been one of a band of European gypsies who were passing conspicuously through Kansas that summer. (9).

The strange creatures mentioned above appear to be two incidents that are not connected with rustling, lights, or UFOs. On 26 August 74 a "brown bear" was reported seen at Oakland, Nebraska. Later that same week, a resident of Sioux City, Iowa, 50 miles north of Oakland, made a detailed complaint about a "thing" resembling a gorilla, that appeared in his backyard. This animals was two-legged and hairy. (10). The simple fact is that such reports of hairy creatures are not in the least unusual for all parts of North America. Others for the same time period came from Carol Stream, Illinois (11), and near Dahlonega, Georgia (12).

Shading shows areas of helicopter, rustler, and mutilation activities.

Back on the track of the cattle mutilations: in July 1974, a university professor and a Nebraska county sheriff both announced their conclusions that members of a cult were responsible for the mutilations then in progress. (13) A more specific suggestion has been made that a satanic cult developed within American prisions may have spread to these active rustlers. A more practical use for blood and sex-organs of cattle has also been suggested. A belief among cowboys is that they can attract the wilder range cattle. (14) While no conclusive proof exists, the facts so far are consistent with the idea of a cult active among cattle rustlers.

At this writing, the mutilations continue in the western counties of South Dakota. (Now the problem has moved away, Nebraska authorities are referring to the "rumors of mutilations.") Ten feet from a mutilated animal at Chester, South Dakota, three pairs of holes were found in the ground, four inches deep in a triangular configuration. This is the first report of such traces, and I suspect the rustlers have been reading the newspaper accounts that link them with UFOs. Unfortunately the account of these holes does not say whether they appear to have been punched or dug in the earth. (15) On 4 Oct. a calf died on the Metzger farm, near Hills, Minnesota. Disease and predators were blamed by a vetinarian for the death and damages. The

owner and a local newspaper editor considered all the circumstances and were dubious. Emil Metzger expressed the sentiments of many Midwestern farmers: "Never before have I seen anything like this." (16).

Sources: (1) Newsweek, 30 Sept 74. (2) Des Moines (Iowa) Register, 22 April 73. (3) Herald-Whig (Quincey, Illinois) 30 Aug 73. (4) Des Moines Register, 17 July 74. (5) Des Moines Register, 13 Sept 74. (6) Windsor (Ontario) Star, 11 Sept 74. (7) Chisago County (Minnesota) Press, 18 Sept 74. (8) Kansas City (Mo) Times, 29 July 74. (9) St Louis (Mo) Post-Dispatch, 23 May 74. (10) Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, 31 Aug 74. (11) Chicago (Illinois) Tribune, 30 Aug 74. (12) Atlanta (Georgia) Constitution, 23 Sept 74. (13) Windsor Star, 15 July 74. (14) Miami (Florida) Herald, 9 Sept 74. (15) Waseca (Minn.) Journal, 9 Oct 74. (16) Hills (Minn) Crescent, 10 Oct 74.

FORTNOTES.

Water mysteriously seeped through the floor of a home in Coral Gables, Florida, for 9 weeks. Hydrologists finally realised that an artesian well had erupted beneath the house. Atlanta Constitution, 16 Aug 74. — Another lonesome traveller: a mixed collie dog, named Twinkles, walked from Inez, Kentucky, to Orient, Ohio. She covered 200 miles in 80 days to find her way home, Milwaukee Journal, 4 Sept 74. — A wrought iron chair resting on a porch in Peek's Crossroads, Alabama, has become an overnight sensation. Neighbors driving past say the chair moves by itself, and thousands have come to see the 'Haunted Chair' for themselves. The answer may be that the vertical bars of the chairback and horizontal lines on the house create an optical illusion. Houston (Texas) Chronicle, 5 Oct 74.

lightning

BALL LIGHTNING - GLENCOE, ARGYLSHIRE.

A spectacular manifestation of ball-lightning was witnessed by two climbers, though the opinion of one of them has now changed a little - he was struck by it in a literal way. John Graham, at 64 a veteran climber, and on the way to the summit of Bidean-nam-Bfan (3766ft) with his friend 61-year-old Jimmy Alexander, said the weather was fine when they set off but as they neared the top of this highest peak in Argyllshire, a thunderstorm broke overhead and gave him his worst moments in 4o years of climbing.

Mr Graham has no memory of the actual event but his friend vividly recalls what happened: "I was about a yard behind John. I saw this thing, about the size of an orange and the same colour, only very bright as if it were lit from the inside. It seemed to be darting up the ridge towards us like a bouncing rubber ball. Then there was a blinding flash and a cracking noise and John went down with a bump. The next thing I knew I was on my knees - I though I had been driven into the ground." Mr Alexander then rushed down the mountain, now in a mist, after a party of women climbers he had seen earlier.

One of them, Mrs Ann Murray, takes up the story: "It was the worst lightning I have seen in Scotland. You can imagine this desolate scene with lowering clouds - obviously something was going to happen. We started heading down the ridge. Then this call came from above, and we started up again." When the women arrived, Mr Graham had revived a little. There was another blinding flash nearby and they decided to take him down the hill. The slope is quite treacherous at the best of times and it took an hour to descend supporting Mr Graham, and another four hours to reach the Glencoe Youth Hostel where the two men stayed. They were unable to contact the local doctor because the phone was now out of order, and so the two friends, one thunderstruck, set out by car the next day for the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. Mr Graham's injuries were mild considering the hazard he had experienced - a small purple spot on his bald head, with a fiery ring round it, and what appeared to be a blister on his heel, which turned out to be a wound cooked to an inch deep.

As far as we can check, the incident happened on the 15 August - and was reported in the Sunday Express 18 Aug 74. Credit: Steve Moore.

BALL-LIGHTNING?-NORTH WALES.

Report by Phil Ledger:
Monday, June 17, 4.20am. At Blaen-y-Wern above Trefriw in the Conway valley, Gwynedd, during a night of extremely heavy rain (severity stressed by everyone) another bang and flash occurred. The Owen family first heard a schhh...noise (above the pounding of the rain) - 5 seconds (estimated) later a ball of light was seen travelling slowly across the field of view from the window (direction, West $\pm$ 60°. Size: difficult to estimate, ie. small object nearby, or large object far off? but appeared to be 6" diameter). 10 seconds later there was an enormous bang, neard for miles around, which shook windows 3½ miles away and broke a lightbulb 3 miles in the opposite direction. Investigation the following day revealed that 150 yards away, the base of a small tree set in a dry stone wall had been shattered, splitting the tree apart. Rocks from the wall were split and thrown up to 100 yards around. (Map ref: SH 774 654.) There was no visible stony material not attributable to the wall, and the wood and soil were not charred.

Comments and anomalies: 1) If the ball of light caused the explosion, then from the slow travel of the ball and the lack of charring, it appears to be a case of ball-lightning (but this is only a label since we know very little about how they are formed and what they are.) If so, the severity of the blast is interesting. A recent series of letters to Nature (Vol 232 p187, July 1971; Vol 226 p252, April 1970 - both give further refs.) carried several anecdotal cases, only one of which ended in a large explosion. In that case too, the material shattered was wood, a large pier-pile, and again (by inference from

Photo (by Phil Ledger) of the blasted tree and standing stone, about 150 yards from the caravan in which the Owens were living while their house was being built, and from which they saw the passage of the ball of light. ((I hope that after processing you can make out some of the detail - Ed.))

subsequent letters) there was no charring. 2) If ball and bang are not directly related, then we are deeper into the realms of a Fortean mystery (see The News No4 p4). 3)Ley lines, I leave to others -- but 8ft from the tree is a 4½ft standing stone (not marked on the 2½" OS map either as a stone or as lying on a boundary). Also, within 200 yards, is a well supplied by water that lower in the valley is used by a commercial Spa; and a sulphur mine -- altogether an interesting place. 4) On a more personal level. the Owen family themselves feel part of the affair. Within a 12 hour period they experienced a potentially fatal accident when their car rolled off into a quarry after the handbrake failed; a particularly successful and interesting psychic time-travel experiment -- and then, to round it off...the fireball!

To a wandering fireball, a most attractive place to go to earth...but why? My thanks to Mr & Mrs Owen for their information needed to compile this report.

*** *** ***

Lightning, or what was thought to be lightning, struck the stove of a mobile home in Geneva, New York. Mrs Dominick Massa said that on Friday, 21 June, she had left a roast on the stove and left the room. Minutes later, "The whole kitchen lit up," and she heard a thundering and searing noise. Firemen were called but found only damage to one burner, a hole in the broiler pan, and the roast cooked to a turn. No information is given of any weather conditions, or how the 'bolt'(?) got in. Obviously no damage was done to the roof. Story from the Winnipeg Free Press, 22 June 74. Credit: Mark Hall.

*** *** ***

"Near my home a herd of cows regularly sheltered under a certain tree when it rained. However, one evening they chose a different tree. Later, there was a terrible thunderstorm and their usual tree was struck by lightning! Animal instinct, or just weather sense?" (Mrs B Lawrence. Waterloo Road, Smethwick.) Letter to Daily Mirror, 25 Sept 74.

EDITORIAL NOTES:

1) Due to the pressure of my commitments I have not been able to answer many letters or confirm subscriptions to both NEWS and INFO. Thanks to the many who've sent clippings (they shall appear in due course); and replies will also be sent in due course. If you feel you have missed issues of both mags you feel you should have received, then please let me know. Back issues still available.

2) At the end of our first year I am attempting to assess our merits and failings. Don't be too surprised if the next issue should have a different format. Costs are still going up, so economy is essential. Also coming up early next year will be drastic changes in the Editor's personal circumstances and the far-reaching effects may disrupt the flow of NEWSs for a little while.

3) Beacuse work on the administration and other routine aspects of the mag is increasing, the strain on the Editor's time is increasing. I would like to hear from anyone who can help with the compiling of general notes from current periodicals, new books, etc ideally without having to mooch suspiciously about newstands all day.

4) NEXT ISSUE: will be the first of Vol 2, and should be out early Feb on the new schedule, containing: Nigel Watson on Lincolnshire ghosts pt2; a curious animal account from Jerome Clark; latest poop on UFOs; some odd meteorology; odd behaviour of animals; and a psychic who out Gellers Geller. And the INDEX to Vol 1, of course.

ripley or not!

THE PRIME MINISTER'S YACHT IS MISSING!

On the morning of Wednesday, September 4, Britain woke to learn that the yacht 'Morning Cloud' belonging to ex-Prime Minister Edward Heath, had sunk, and two of the crew had lost their lives, late on Monday night, the 2nd Sept. What interests our (at times) ghoulish sense of the bizarre is the reporting of a few details sunk in the backwaters of the big news story.

But first, a few facts -- At 8.20am Sunday 1st Sept. 'Morning Cloud' sailed out of Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, where it had been competing in a week of racing. It was skippered by Donald Blewitt (the Joke God's hand is sure and cruel) and a crew of six. They headed across the mouth of the Thames and the weather grew rough, but nothing that these experienced sailors were not used to and couldn't handle. By 11pm on Monday they were in the Channel , and well out from the South Coast - the weather had become a Force 9 gale. A huge freak wave knocked two men overboard - one was pulled back by his safety-line, but the other's line sheared and he was lost to sight. The yacht turned about to search and was hit by a second freak wave - just as Christopher Chadd was coming up a companionway, and he too was swept away. This doubled the Tory leader's tragedy because Chadd was his god-son. The sloop was now foundering and the skipper gave the order to abandon ship - the remaining crew took to the liferaft. They were spotted 8 hours later on Tuesday morning where they and wreckage had drifted onto Brighton beach. They were utterly exhausted and had collapsed from their exposure.

The so-called freak waves are interesting. At the inquest, held in early October, Mr K Adlard Coles, described as 'Britain's leading expert on heavy weather sailing', put forward a theory based on two weeks of examination of the problem with Laurence Draper, a scientist of the Institute of Oceanography, who also gave evidence. They believe the yacht was in tidally slack waters of at least 10 fathoms. Within 3 hours, a gale of force-9 could produce waves of 26ft - and a 1% chance of waves of 30ft or more - entirely wind-generated. The two experts believe that 1% happened - helped along by the synchronisation of the peaks of two seperate wave-trains - indeed they said that the sailing belief that every seventh and eleventh wave were the highest in a train, was not unfounded. Mr Coles is planning to write this up as an appendix to his widely-accepted manual 'Heavy Weather Sailing'. (1)

Apart from our suspicions that the South Coast Channel is as mysterious in its way as the haunted triangularity off Bermuda (Past issues of The News and INFO Journal have recorded mystery sounds, missing ships, and waterspouts in the Channel), and the theoretical proof of the freak waves, it seems that 'Morning Cloud' (rather, that should be plural because there were two previous 'Morning Cloud's) was feted with bad luck - whatever that is.

'Morning Cloud I' was sold to a Jersey businessman in 1970 and renamed 'Nuage du Matin'. She was smashed to pieces in her moorings at Gorey Harbour, in a gale, at roughly the same time as 'Morning Cloud III' went down somewhere off Shoreham. MC No 2 did win a place in the '71 Admiral's Cup, but after it was sold and renamed 'Opposition' was a consistent embarassment to its owners. The doomed MC 3 got off to a bad start seconds after it was launched in 1973 - the wife of a crewmember fell into the slipway and was knocked unconscious. (2) It might be said that the sea-worthiness of these boats was never in question - they were all built to the design of specialists and sailed by experienced men.

Now we come to the most remarkable and macabre twist to the plot - five days before the yaucht went down Mr Heath posed a picture (ABOVE) as advance publicity for a thriller by John Dyson called 'The Prime Minister's Boat is Missing' -- a novel in which "A blinding squall envelops a number of racing yachts in the English Channel ; when it clears, the boat with the Prime Minister aboard has vanished..." The publishers were said to be 'shocked and dismayed to hear of this strange and sad coincidence. " All the way to the bank, no doubt. (3) Well, Mr Koestler, here's another for your next book!!!

1) Observer, 13 Oct 74.
2) Most papers of the 4th Sept. 74. contained the story - but our facts are mainly compiled from
3) The Bookseller 7 Sept 74 - the photo of Mr Heath holding the culprit also from the Bookseller but the 14 Sept issue. Credit: Colin Bord.

*** *** ***

Some other notable synchronicities in the last few months are 1) the discovery of breast-cancer in the wives of both the President and Vice-President of the USA; 2) On their way to the State opening of Parliament, the carriage carrying Princess Anne and Mark Phillips stopped in the Mall near the spot where the attempt was made to kidnap Anne. A horse had become lame. Geller was performing on the radio at the same time (??) . Daily Mirror, 29 Oct, and 1 Nov 74.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE FORTEAN SOURCEBOOKS II

William R Corliss

Hopefully, most readers of THE NEWS are already familiar with STRANGE PHENOMENA and the other Fortean sourcebooks I have published recently. I term these sourcebooks 'Fortean' because in many ways they are extensions of Fort's work. They differ from Fort's books in that the original sources are usually reprinted completely, and are categorized and indexed. Thus, although they lack Fort's humor and philosophy, the sourcebooks should be better research tools.

The Fortean sourcebooks espouse no cause: there are no attempts to prove the existence of UFOs, ancient astronauts, the Biblical Deluge, sea monsters, or anything else. One might think this would make the sourcebooks dull reading, but I believe the contrary is true. The original accounts of atmospheric phenomena, geological conundrums, and the discoveries of inexplicable artifacts of ancient man are intrinsically exciting because the eye-witnesses were often astounded or at least highly intrigued by what they saw.

The Making of a Fortean.

For all these comparisons with Fort's efforts, it is rather ironical that my own Fortean proclivities (and therefore the sourcebooks themselves) did not begin with Charles Fort. Rather, the American geologist George McCready Price was the initial stimulus. One day in 1951, while browsing through a table of second-hand books in Berkeley, California, I came upon his EVOLUTIONARY GEOLOGY AND THE NEW CATASTROPHISM. This was my first encounter with 'outlaw science'; that is systematic investigations that are ignored or rejected out of hand by organized science of the moment. Price had collected many facts that he claimed undermined conventional geology and supported catastrophic hypotheses, such as the Biblical Deluge. Price and his small following worked contrary to the geological and biological philosophies set in motion by Lyell and Darwin.

Once my mind was adjusted to the heresy of it all, I quickly discovered the Crehore atom, the Drayson theory, and finally, in 1953, on a bookshelf at the University of Colorado library, the works of Charles Fort. It was all rather fortuitous. One has to be in the right place at the right time, because theories contrary to the prevailing dogma rarely hit the mainstream of literature. It has always been this way -- it is human nature -- and it does not annoy me nearly as much as it does most Forteans. I believe that inertia and skepticism play important roles in science. Furthermore, it has been my experience that Forteans have sacred cows too.

The foregoing aside has a purpose, for it betrays the fact that the sourcebooks have a different genesis from most Fortean literature.

To continue with the account of my discovery of the Fortean world, which I suspect is similar in emotional impact to that experienced by initiates in Rosicrucianism, Atlantism, etc; I will testify that my first contacts with Fort were identical in psychic content to my first heady encounters with idealised Baconian science. It took but a short while for me to realise that honest science and honest Forteanism are one and the same.

Should not the true Fortean, who dogmatically warns Science that its dogmas will be replaced ultimately, also admit that even Forteanism may be but an ephemeral vision? Perhaps Forteanism's "suspended judgement" is a poor way to approach the real world. Dedication and conviction of individuals may play important roles in the way things work. To illustrate: Tennyson had the wounded Arthur say: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Such were my thoughts as I began to accumulate books and papers on the borderland of science during the 1960s. It was a Fortean collection in many respects, but it should be obvious by now that I cannot subscribe to the Fortean approach as the final solution. My collecting made a fine avocation, but I was led to the conclusion that something 'different' had to be done if any of the enigmas being regurgitated ad nauseum in the literature were ever to be understood. Almost everything, particularly the books in my collection, advocated one hypothesis or another. Many were the syntheses of carefully collected data. Each author saw the universe through his own particular set of glasses. It all made good reading, but it was not getting us anywhere fast.

Setting Some Goals.

Over and above all the isms and dogmas are the data -- the supreme arbiters, the facts that do not fit the prevailing theories. The data is there all right. If there is one thing Fort did not get across well, it was an appreciation of the true extent of the anomalous data, the great bulk of which still ticks away like a time-bomb amidst dusty library shelves. Fortean data may represent only 0.001% of all non-fictional literature, but summed over the centuries this is still a great deal. My experience has been that Fort merely skimmed off some of the cream and not all of that either. Not only is the foreign literature largely untapped, but little has been done with the last 50 years of anomalies, excepting for extensive files of newspaper clippings

dealing mainly with UFOs and monsters. Truly revolutionary data that Fort never imagined may come from radio astronomy, the cell nucleus, and the offices of psychologists.

By 1972 I had decided that three things must be done if Fort's work was not to be in vain (I'm sure he didn't care if it was in vain or not):

1) The scope of the Fortean approach had to be broadened to include all areas of Knowledge, in particular the life sciences.
2)The scientific community must be brought in, for only scientists are likely to come up with more answers than questions.
3) The older Fortean data had to be rescued quickly and organized into useful form, for it was suffering attrition in the libraries. In addition, the post-Fort data (the last 50 years) had to be collected. (Due to the exponential growth of the literature, the last 50 years of Fortean data may far exceed all previous data, even though it is of lower concentration).

Items 2 and 3 deserve some elaboration. One of my contentions is that Forteans by themselves may stimulate but cannot by themselves carry through scientific revolutions. Even individuals such as Velikovsky, von Daniken, and Wilhelm Reich have barely perturbed Science. I do not want to imply that these three gentlemen, just mentioned, are Forteans. Indeed their advocacy makes them distinctly anti-Forteans. I merely wish to point out that even existing hypotheses backed by some data will make little impression. Such challenges from without may even be counterproductive.

The third item in the list was stimulated by my observations in several large library systems. All data, particularly those from the Nineteenth Century and earlier, are sinking rapidly out of sight. Not that the data are being destroyed outright, as were the writings in the library of Alexandria and the temples of pre-Columbian America. They are just becoming unavailable. Libraries are increasingly expensive to operate, and the older books and journals are too expensive to place in modern information retrieval systems. In some libraries, books more than 10 years old are sold or stored somewhere where they are not available to the casual researcher. Soon, I am afraid, the only readily available data will be those that conventional wisdom has deemed worthy of indexing, cataloging and computerizing. Is this not as effective as fire?

The Sourcebook Idea.

With the objectives presented above, and the constraint that anything I did had to be financially self-sufficient, I could have done several useful things with the material at hand and in the large libraries within 75 miles of my office. Fortean data could have been collected and manipulated to create one or more of the following:

1) A comprehensive Fortean encyclopedia.
2) A series of books written in a philosophical, stream-of-consciousness style, taking up where Fort left off.
3) A large annotated bibliography.
4) Regurgitations of the data in popular books.
5) A Fortean handbook, organized by category rather than alphabetically, as in the encyclopedia approach.
6) Sourcebooks that reproduced, organized and indexed the essential Fortean literature.

I immediately eliminated possibilities 2 and 4 on the basis that they would be unlikely to influence the scientific community. The annotated bibliography held promise but was discarded because it would not provide researchers with raw material but only with annotations based on my personal predjudices. The encyclopedia idea was especially intriguing for I have worked on McGraw-Hill's Encyclopedia of Science and Technology for many years. But who would provide the authoritative articles -- on mistpouffers, say? In addition, a comprehensive encyclopedia would entail many volumes and would present a risky investment for a publisher. The handbook was discarded for identical reasons. (I believe that some day a handbook and/or encyclopedia of Forteana will be economically viable.) This process of elimination left me with the sourcebook approach.

It was a good choice. It was financially acceptable because I could start with a limited field, such as geophysics, and, with the ring-binder and categorized format, take a modest bite of that field. With some modicum of market success, additional volumes could be published and combined category-by-category with preceding material. Since most sourcebook material came from scientifically reputable sources, scientists could not object strenuously no matter how anomalous the data. (As it turned out, both Nature and Science recommended STRANGE PHENOMENA highly) Perhaps most important of all, the sourcebook approach rescues and preserves those tidbits that Fort considered forever "damned".

The relatively favorable reception of STRANGE PHENOMENA across the entire spectrum from serious science to the occult suggests that Fortean data may not be damned forever. I hope that the sourcebooks will be a common denominator. In any event, the sourcebooks are fun to research and produce. And if I read Fort correctly, he enjoyed his researches too. In fact, I am coming to believe that if you take Fort, the sourcebooks or even organized science too seriously, their real import may vanish into thin air like the UFO and Loch Ness monster.

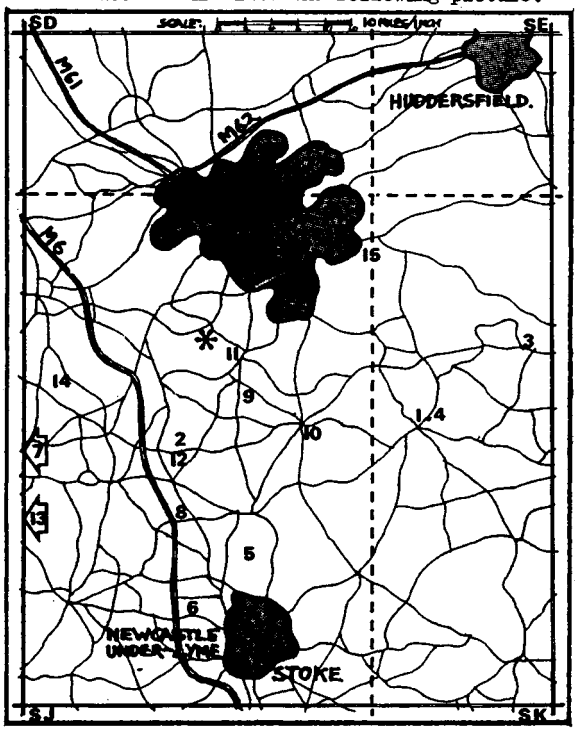
*** *** *** ***

We heard from Bill Corliss not long ago with the news that in the STRANGE PHENOMENA series volume G2 and G3 are available now (if not shortly); volume M2 of the STRANGE ARTIFACTS series, likewise. The first volume in series E (Geology) is well under way, and two other series (Astronomy, 'A', and Biology, 'B') are slightly more than twinkles in his eye. For more information on this valuable reference-work (worth its weight in oil) that no one in any field of reasearch can afford to do without, write to William Corliss's The Sourcebook Project, PO Box 107, Glen Arm. Maryland 21057, USA.

ufos

THE PHANTOM HELICOPTER: Jan 1974.

In NEWS 3 (p19) we gave a summary of sightings of a 'phantom helicopter' in the region just south of Manchester. In the course of correspondence with David Rees of the Union of Northern Observers it became possible to give slightly more detailed information. Contributions gleaned from other sources build into the following picture:



1) 26 Oct 1973 - Buxton, Derbys - Manchester Evening News, 27 Oct 73.

2) 14 Jan 1974 - Goostrey, Cheshire.
3) - Hope Valley, Derbys.
Daily Mirror, 15 jan 74.

4) 15 Jan 1974 - Buxton.
5) - Mow Cop.
6) - Audley, Staffs.
7) - Kelsall, Cheshire.
8) 16 Jan 1974 - Arclid, Cheshire.
Daily Mirror, 16 Jan 74.

9) 17 Jan 1974 - Alderley Edge.
10) - Macclesfield.
11) - Wilmslow.
12) - Goostrey.
Manchester Evening News, 18 Jan 74.

13) 18 Jan 1974 - A51, Duddon, Cheshire)
Manchester Evening News, 19 Jan 74.

14) 21 Jan 1974 - Comerbach, Cheshire.
15) - Hyde, Cheshire.
Radio News, 21 Jan 74.

*) Manchester Airport.

Sources: Many thanks to Mr DL Rees of MAPIT and UNO for his assistance and information. Nigel Watson, clippings. Robert Forrest, clippings. John Harney, article on 'Phantom Helicopter' in Merseyside UFO Bulletin, Vol 6. No 4.

CANADIAN PHANTOM COPTERS.

The Res Bureaux Bulletin (No 1. pp 10/11) carried some reports of "Tail-less helicopters" seen in Canada, interestingly before and after the Manchester group of sightings above.

> "There were two reports of a UFO in early January (1974) near Snow Road Station, Ontario. One witness, whose account was filed with the Meteor Centre, described it as looking like the bottom portion of a hovercraft with two rotors on the top. And the other witness I located feels convinced it was a helicopter travelling away from her as she couldn't see the tail of it...Both witnesses stated that the craft was moving eastward."

Later in early March, a series of sightings of a weird aerial artifact occurred near the Lake Boshkung area. (Lindsay Post, 14, 20, 27 March, and 24 April.) "They were said to have four wings with an overall wingspan of 20 feet, dark in color, and with lights that appear to change color."

> "They were monstrous planes, black in color, and shaped like a pollywog," according to Mrs Lunham. (She) said that they were noiseless with one exception when one of them appeared to have some difficulty taking off and gave a "thump-thump" noise. It is her belief (and that of the witnesses in the para above) that they are not from outer space but some experimental craft being tested by the US and Canadian military, and in her concern she has written to the Minister of National Defence without receiving a response. An effort to photograph the lights was made by Peter Courtney of the Minden Progress, but the lights were too dull and moved too fast for any good photographs. One description of the UFO was that: 'It looked like a helicopter with the tail off.' Markings of a landing behind the Lunham residence made several weeks earlier were examined; and though they were fairly old they were made up of a V-shaped marking with two pad-like markings at right angles to it."

Two further sightings were made by a Jerry Gavreau, to the south of Lindsay. "The first...was made when he noticed what he had first taken to be helicopters were 'tail-less' while watching them through binoculars; and the second...was made near Orono when a cigar-shaped object passed before him at low level. (Lindsay Post, 20 March)".

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LETTERS

From: Frank Adey.

"Unusual Properties of Water"

I read the piece on 'Unusual Properties of Water' in NEWS 6 coincidentally with the following item which I quote from Mensa Journal (International) No 180:

> "ANY OLD ION. Nashville Mensa Newsletter is appealing for information on how to build a simple negative-ion generator suitable for a 2000 cubic foot bedroom. Negative ions are found near waterfalls or the sea, or when it's sunny, or in the open country. They are probably the active constituent of the old remedy, fresh air. They have been shown to relieve depression, and the easy way to get a dose of them is to stand close to a violently running tap for a few minutes. This is also effective with some people's hay fever."

If all this is true, it's the damndest remedy I have heard of in some time. I have visions of American hay-fever sufferers with their noses shoved under taps. It raises some interesting points: are people who live near waterfalls less prone to depression than expected from the national average? Do people living on the coast suffer less from hay fever? And how do the negative ions bring about these effects?

"White Indians in Amazon Jungle"

Another piece from NEWS 6. Actually, white Amazonian Indians are mentioned in 'Exploration Fawcett' by Col. PH Fawcett, first published in the 1920s (1924, judging by the dedication.) I quote firstly from Ch. 8, where a Frenchman describes them thus:

> "'There are white Indians on the Acre,' this Frenchman told me. 'My brother went up the Tahaumanu on a launch, and one day, well up river, was told that white Indians were near. He didn't believe it and scoffed at the men who told him, but nevertheless went out in a canoe and found unmistakable signs of Indians. The next thing he knew, he and his men were being attacked by big, well-built handsome savages, pure white, with red hair and blue eyes. They fought like devils too, and when my brother shot one of them dead the others rallied to recover the body, and got away with it. People say these white Indians don't exist, and when it's proved they do, that they are half-breed mixtures of Spanish and Indian. That's what people say who never saw them, but those who have seen them think differently!'"

Now, the Acre river, mentioned above, is about 2,000 miles away from the Xingu area (at least on my map). This may mean that white Indians are more widely spread than Sr Rocha imagines. Actually, the tribe he has 'discovered' is almost certainly the one mentioned in Ch 10. of the same book:

> "There was talk of white Indians again. 'I know a man here who has met one,' said the British Consul. 'They are very savage, and have the reputation of coming out only at night. They're known as "Bats" for that reason.' 'Where do they live?' I asked. 'Oh, somewhere up in the region of the lost Martirios goldmines, north or north-west of Diamartino. Nobody knows quite where they are. Matto Grosso is mostly unknown country.'"

The above conversation is recorded as having taken place (as far as I can gather) in Corumba, which is a few hundred miles to the southwest of the Xingu region.

'Exploration Fawcett,' is in fact a goldmine of Fortean data, as Fawcett collected every piece of local folklore he came across; lost cities, surviving prehistoric monsters, poltergeists, all make hearsay appearances in the course of the book. One of the most interesting legends concerns a plant whose juice softens rock or metal so that it can be worked by hand before it rehardens. (Ch. 7.) Fawcett was told that this was how the old South American architects fitted giant stone blocks together so snugly in their buildings. He relates how he spoke to a local inhabitant about the little hollows in certain rocks in which kingfisher-like birds lived. Fawcett remarked that the birds were lucky to find such holes to nest in, and noted that the holes were rarely seen away from the bird's habitats. His informant, who had lived in the area for 25 years, told him that the birds made the holes themselves by rubbing a certain leaf against the rockface until it went soft, and then pecking it away. Fawcett considered it a tall story, but remarks that he heard confirmation from various other people. Maybe this if true (which is bloody unlikely, but you never know) could explain the Great 'Indian Bathtub' Mystery? (Again in NEWS 6.)

*** *** ***

From: CA Worth.

"Miracle Petrol"

I found "Gas From Water, Really?" (Mark Hall's Forteana, NEWS 5, p9.) interesting and hope I will engender a similar response with my recall of a feature that appeared in the Sunday Express between the Wars.

During WW1 an American tried to interest Authority in his substance which when added to water gave the same performance as petrol. Everybody gave him the elbow but he did eventually persuade the Admiralty to make a test. He was driven to Portsmouth in a staff car which stopped on the quay and had its tank drained. A bucket was slung into the harbour and filled with water - salt - to which was added the 'substance', and the mix was poured into the tank. The car started and was driven with results agreed to be better than those obtained from 'official' petrol. The Yank thought he had it made, but was soon disillusioned because the Naval brass could not eliminate the thought that they had been conned - and

the whole project was abandoned. He caught a ship for home and a few days out, disappeared with nobody able to decide if it was suicide or murder.

(Mr Worth contacted the Sunday Express in an attempt to fill in some details, and was informed that the files that far back were no longer generally available, and a fee would be charged if a search were to be undertaken. So there the story must remain until someone with the inclination has a few days to lose in the British Museum.)

From: MX (legally adopted name.)

"A Charles Fort Index."

I wouldn't mind finding out how many of your readers would be interested in obtaining original editions of Fort, and my index for his collected works. The Fortean Society edition was the one published by Holt; and it did have its own index and a very cruddy one at that, hopelessly incomplete. I spent four months putting my index together, typed it up for Dover Books who then decided to reprint the old index ((in a reprint of the Holt edition due out sometime before the end of this year - Ed.)). To celebrate, I went out and purchased original editions of each of Fort's books for less than $20.00 each, and I have an extra copy of 'New Lands' of which only 1,000 were printed. I have considered circulating a list of out-of-print books among several reputable dealers and could add to the list if desired. But it would help to ask for an initial deposit for anyone wanting these editions."

Anyone interested in taking up MX's kind offer can contact him at: Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5C8, Canada; or via his London forwarding address: BM-RESOLOGIST, London WC1V 6XX.

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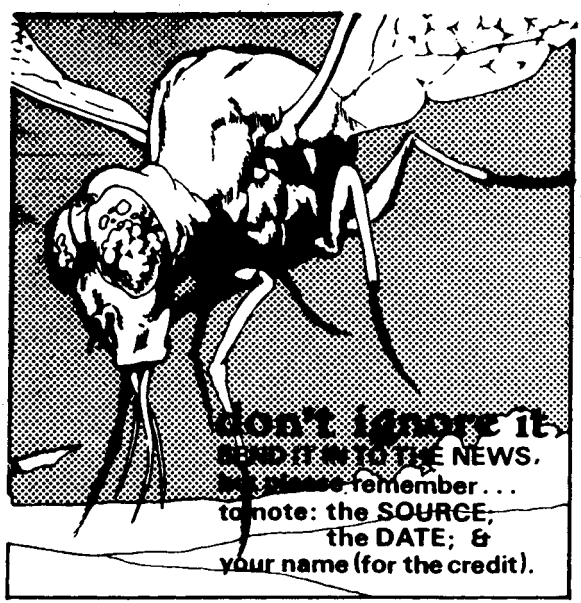

REVIEWS

New hardbacks:-

THE ROMEO ERROR by Lyall Watson. Hodder & Stoughton; £3.25; pp254. Romeo's error was to think Juliet dead when she wasn't - and from that you can guess that Dr Watson is this time expounding on what we today know about the states of Life and Death, which are crucial to today's transplant technology. The latter chapters deal with more controversial theories such as 'Life after death', astral bodies and the existance of bio-plasma and/or ectoplasm, psychic-surgery, and so on. Bound to be another winner for the Doctor who is on to a 'good thing'. He must feel so too, because his 'Supernature' has just been printed in paperback.

GHOSTS by Janet Bord. David & Charles; £1.95; pp80; illos; ISBN 0.7153.6632.7. Although this has been written as an introduction to ghost hunting and psychic phenomena in general in a series of children's books, it is nevertheless, very matter-of-fact in its approach and would stand as a good general guide to any adult wishing to know where to start in the spook business. Also contains some new material, eg. the ghost-dog story mentioned in her article (p6, this issue.)

COLONY EARTH : EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE AND OUR ORIGINS? by Richard Mooney. Souvenir Press; £2.60; pp251; ISBN 0.285.62145.9. Goes over much the same ground and evidences as any other Ancient Astronaut type of book you have doubtless read....except that this one is considerably less hysterical and takes time out to discuss its evidence instead of beating your gray-matter into a loss of critical sensitivity by sheer speed of 'fact' presentation. Mooney also sticks closely to his theme, giving it time and room to develop in the length of the book , being more concerned with the origins of man and life on Earth than with proving that gods were visiting aliens. Interesting discussions of evidences for ancient atomic warfare.

SECRET OF THE AGES by Brinsley Le Poer Trench. Souvenir Press; £2.60; pp192; illos; ISBN 0.285.62153.X. In these days of ecology-consciousness, the term 'Spaceship Earth' is much touted (coined, I think, by Bucky Fuller.) Here the term is taken literally, as BLPT's thesis is that the Earth is hollow, inhabited still and littered with the machines of Old Atlantis, and occasionally used for the projected domination of the world by the forces of the Anti-Christ, Satanaku. Everything is here from the Green Children that appeared in Suffolk, to Shaver's Deros (deranged robots.) I dont know how sincere BLPT is in this but he does himself or the theories of a 'Hollow Earth' no justice at all, when he writes in the sensational style of serials in the Sunday papers, peppered with italicised sentences like: "There may be an active fifth column already here among us."; "The puma, it should be emphasised, is indigenous to this planet."; and "Why is there so much dust in the farthermost northern areas of

the Arctic?" and "If no rivers are flowing from the inside of the earth to the outside, then why are all icebergs composed of fresh water?". And I must confess a degree of bogglement at: "The centre of the earth would have to be made of solid material for it eventually to be proved hollow!" Perhaps the most curious evidence is a set of photographs taken by a NASA ESSA-7 satellite which show a black area some hundreds of miles across at the North Pole and that BLPT says is a hole. "Here then, are two of the most thrilling photographs ever taken. They are dynamite." I'd like to know what the NASA analysts said about them - the one photo out of one and a half million that showed the pole without its usual cloud cover. As a Fortean I think many other explanations can be admitted for some of the data herein - but I really don't know what to make of the hole at the pole photo. The 'secret' of the title refers to definite proof of the existence of the Hollow Earth as "..the most closely guarded international secret.." and the true (according to BLPT) origin of the UFOs. Why I ask myself, if this secret has been 'closely guarded' by human and demonic powers, has it been possible for BLPT to write and publish it? They figure it'll be ignored as just another crank book. Perhaps. I showed the book to some friends at a recent SF convention in B'ham, and when the howls of derision died down, heads were still pondering over that photo. Is it real? Has it retouched, etc? Until we know, our laughs are a little hollow too.

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The following books see their first UK paper printing:-

SUPERNATURE by Dr Lyall Watson. Coronet; 50p.
THE DRAGON AND THE DISC by FW Holiday. Futura; 50p; pp247; ISBN 0.8600.7056.5; illos.
FLYING SAUCER VISION by John Michell. Abacus; 60p pp170; ISBN 0.349.12319.5; illos.
THE SPEAR OF DESTINY by Trevor Ravenscroft. Corgi 60p; pp361; ISBN 0.552.09609.1.

All of these are thoroughly recommendable and destined to become required reading in their genres. ** 'Supernature' (if you haven't read it already) is an up-to-date compendium of hard and pseudo- scientific theories and discoveries assessed from the point of view of a biologist. ** Michell's 'Flying Saucer Vision' has long been regarded with great affection by those who knew of it, as perhaps the key departure from the prevailing trend of UFO books at the time (1967). Taking off from Jung's impression that UFO phenomena reflected a stirring portent of changes in the 'collective psyche', Michell re-examines the archetypes predominant in modern mythology and aspirations: flight; communication with 'other' intelligences (gods, aliens, demons & angels; fairies; etc); the dragon and its connexion with Leys and the fluxes of 'terrestrial magnetism'. There is also much sensible interpretation of Fort's data here, including Kaspar Hauser. ** Holiday's book takes up the theme briefly explored by Michell, indeed a worthy successor to FSV. Holiday's main effort depends on his personal involvement investigating the monster legends of the Scottish and Irish lakes - then he discovers the connexion with Leys and UFOs in the symbology of ancient religion. Greatly readable too. ** Rarely have I been so absorbed by any book as during my reading of 'Spear of Destiny'. It may be a matter of personal taste but Ravenscroft's erudition and impressive insight had me spellbound. This tour-de-force of Germanic mysticism recounts the tale of the Spear of Longinus (that pierced the side of Christ) and its possession by all the critical leaders in the history of Europe who regarded it as a talisman of great power for Good as well as Evil. The legend of the Spear was bound up with Occult initiation groups throughout the centuries and became the foundation upon which Hitler based his power when he seized it from the Vienna Hofburg museum. This book tells how the Nazi theories of the 'Aryan Christ', and the 'Supermen', and their use of the Jews as their stepping-stone to power, and many other curious aspects of their movement emerged from the medieval Grail legends (eg. Wagner's opera 'Parsival'), a wide-ranging occult knowledge (the Thule Group was a contemporary offshoot of the Golden Dawn, and Hitler, himself a considerable student of Teutonic occultism, was duly selected as their 'messiah' and initiated.); beliefs in reincarnation, the use of sex and drugs (Hitler's key-trip was on mescalin) in their rituals; the influence of the works Schopenhauer, Neitzsche, Houston Stewart Chamberlain, Madame Blavatsky etc. None of this is put across as sensationalist journalism, but with scholarly precision that makes it the more impressive. We have had myriads of theories about the origins of the two World Wars, but here for the first time is a credible analysis in terms of the perverted use of 'magic', a quite deliberate attempt by a few personalities to undermine what they called the corrupting, life-hating, impotent Christian Church, and restore to the German peoples the mystic way of the warrior. But along the line, Hitler took off on his dreams of world domination, and like the characters he believed himself to be reincarnations of, he revelled in the destruction of all that men held dear. ** *** **

A second paperback printing for:-

GODS & SPACEMEN IN THE ANCIENT WEST by W Raymond Drake. Sphere; 45p; pp240.
BOOK OF THE DAMNED by Charles Fort. Abacus; 75p; pp320. Nice to know the first run sold out.

did you see.. ..?

'Evolution of the Moon's Orbit and the Origin of Life'. DL Turcotte, et al. Nature Vol 251, Sept 13, 1974. (Evidence for an approach of the moon to the earth -- 3000 million yrs BC) -- and its possible indications in the evolution of life.)

'Comets: modifiers of human historic trends.' by MA Smollin. Horoscope Nov 74, pp20/23.

'Is all Witchcraft really Witchcraft?' by Christina Larner. A critical look at faddish revivals. New Society, 10 Oct 74.

The Ley Hunter 58/59, Aug/Sept. 'Abbots Bromley Sword Dancers' by John Radford. 'How Straight is The Old Straight Track?' by Peter Mabey, who has won the use of a computer-terminal in the Honeywell Dial-a-Computer competition, to carry out an analysis of the Ley-theory in Somerset and Dorset. 'Ancient Metrology' by RDY Perrett. 'Dual Nature of English Measuring Systems.' by Capt. M Stopani-Thompson. Both above are interesting discussions on the origins and derivations of old English metrology, especially as applied to the proportional systems indicated by the layout of megalithic monuments. Plus a Tyneside UFO. TLH is now bimonthly from: Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 2AT - £1.50 for 1 year.

Fate & Fortune No 6. 'Divining the Unknown', Martin Hillman on dowsing. Werewolves' by Chris J Smith. 'Stonehenge' by Eileen Buckle. 'Photographs of Thought' by Lynn Picknett, with some startlingly powerful photos of Ted Serios strutting his stuff. 'The Haunted Dreamer', a rundown on the works of HP Lovecraft by Angela M Errigo.

'In Signs' by Jeffrey Bernard. New Statesman 30 August 74....a send-up of astrology.

'Acupuncture Revisited' by Prof. P Wall (Head of Cerebral Functions Unit, Univ. College, London.) Also: Astronomers from Hale Observatory (USA)have discovered a previously unknown satellite of Jupiter, thus bringing the total to 13. This latest one is 20th magnitude and may possibly be a minor planet trapped by Jupiter. And some astronomers have now proposed that one of the larger moons, Io, may be covered with common salt. New Scientist 3 Oct 74,

'Cropmarks near the Sutton Courtnay Saxon Site' D Benson & D Miles. Antiquity Vol XLVIII No 191 Sept 74. (See also 'The Whippingham Ground Effects' by Leonard Cramp. Flying Saucer Review Vol 14 No 3, May/June 1968.

History Vol 59 No 196, June 74 - contains reviews of important ref. books: 'Witchcraft in the Middle Ages' by Jeffrey B Russell. (London: Cornell UP, 1972, 394pp, £5.95.). 'Witch Hunting in South-western Germany 1562-1684: The Social and Intellectual Foundations' by HC Erik Midelfort. (Stanford UP/ Oxford UP. 1972, 300pp, £5.75.).

'Generalisations' by Prof. Guy Ourisson. His view of why and how Science has developed the art of specialisation. New Scientist, 17 Oct 74, pp190/2.

'Colonisation at Lagrangea.' - Graham Chedd on Gerard O'Neill's proposals for artificial planetoids moored in free-space or the Lagrange points in a Moon orbit. NEW SCIENTIST, 24 Oct 74. Curiously, the same issue carried a letter discussing the same Lagrange points in connection with Luman's 'Long Delayed Echo' theories, from Luman himself; and a letter on 'Dowsing'.

FATE & FORTUNE No7 : 'Flying Saucers' by Charles Bowen. And FATE & FORTUNE No8 contains an article on 'Poltergeists' by Dr ARG Owen.

LANTERN : The magazine put out by the Borderline Science Investigation Group (BSIG). BSIG was formed to look into folklore, UFO, ghost & fairy incidents, indeed anything unusual in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, and LANTERN has carried much interesting stuff, including notes on the phantom bells of Dunwich, Leys and the 'Green Children of Woolpit' (also quoted by Le Poer Trench in his new book 'Secret of the Ages' - see reviews.) They are still a small but active group (with much the same problems as THE NEWS) and well deserve your support. Contact: I Bunn. 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk. The mag seems to be quarterly at 12p an issue, so send along 50p or more if you wish; it is all in a good cause.

Compilation Credits: P Ledger & Nigel Watson.

ADS

THE NEWS is available from the following specialist book services who keep wide-ranging stocks of Fortean, Occult, UFO and general books, including science fiction, etc. A * denotes a mail-order service with lists available by request.

TEMPS FUTURS (*)
3 Rue Perronet, 75007 Paris, France.

NEW DIMENSIONS INC. (*)
Box 323, Arlington, Va 22210, USA.

JAPETUS.
201 Corporation St, Birmingham B4 6SE.

DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN EYED. (*)
10 Berwick Street, London W1V 3RG.

COMPENDIUM BOOKS. (*)
240 Camden High St, London NW1.

...and don't forget to mention THE NEWS...

Note: Having pleaded in the last issue for some publisher to reissue the works of Max Freedom Long , it was of course inevitable that I be taken to task for my ignorance; herewith corrected. USA cloth editions of Long's books are available from COMPENDIUM (see above) from £2.75; and also in stock at NEW DIMENSIONS in the States.

THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY.

The AAS was formed late last year as a non-profit society to promote scientific, literary and educational studies of the 'Ancient Astronaut' concept. "The Society's goals are to seek evidence to determine whether intelligent life existed on Earth before recorded history, and to determin whether Earth was ever visited by extraterrestrial beings." There is to be an official Journal, a newsletter called "Ancient Skies" (bi-monthly), lectures, studygroups, and probably most important, organised expeditions. An active Fortean, Richard T Crowe, is in the pilot-seat of the newsletter. Already they have held their first World conference, in Arlington, USA. A general membership, including the newsletter, can be had for $6.00. More details from: The Ancient Astronaut Society. 600 Talcott Road, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. USA.